

## Thatcher gets Bank backing in pound row

### Inflation the priority says Leigh-Pemberton

David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday came down publicly on the side of the Prime Minister in the debate over the pound.

In evidence to the all-party House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee, he stressed the defeat of inflation as the first priority of the Government's monetary policy, and said there was no target for the pound.

He specifically ruled out suggestions that the Bank of England was operating a policy of "shadowing" the German mark, although he said the Government would have some idea of what range

the pound should be in at a specific time.

The Governor's emphasis was on flexibility in the approach to the pound and, echoing the Prime Minister, he said there was a limited role for official intervention in the foreign exchange markets. He added: "Intervention is perfectly legitimate provided it does not become a habit."

The Governor fully backed the decision, taken at the behest of the Prime Minister this month, to uncap sterling against the mark. Stability of the exchange rate was desirable, he said, but it had to

try does represent one of the most serious difficulties we have in controlling inflation," he said.

But he added that there was evidence that growth in the economy had slowed down from its strong pace of the second half of last year, and that overheating pressures were moderating.

Asked by Mr John Townend MP about the possibility of a reintroduction of credit controls, the Governor was firm in ruling them out. Hire purchase and other credit controls would no longer be effective, he said.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton's remarks came on a day when the dollar's fall continued on worries about US inflation and the presidential election. The fall, which had been particularly sharp overnight against the Japanese yen, was the principal reason for renewed stock market nervousness.

The dollar's weakness, which has come in spite of an apparent stabilization of the trade deficit, will put pressure on the Federal Open Market Committee — which sets monetary policy in the US — meeting in Washington today and tomorrow.

The dollar had dropped below ¥125 in Tokyo overnight, in spite of some central bank intervention. It was quoted at ¥124.30 in Tokyo and failed to recover in London, ending at ¥124.20.

The pound was firmer, both against the weak dollar and the mark, on the view that the poor February trade figures,

take second place to the defeat of inflation. That decision was "the acceptance of the inevitability that the pound had to rise from DM3," he said.

"The overriding objective of monetary policy is this continuing downward pressure on inflation," he said, adding: "Subject to that overriding objective, stability of the exchange rate is very desirable."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said the Bank of England, in operating monetary policy to bear down on inflation, had to be able to use the three weapons at its disposal — interest rates, the exchange rate and currency intervention — with flexibility.

But he surprised the committee when he said that last year's intervention to hold down the pound — which caused a \$20 billion (£11 billion) rise in Britain's foreign currency reserves, was in the nature of "smoothing" undue movements in the exchange rate.

He also caused some surprise by playing down Britain's part in last year's Louvre agreement on stabilizing currencies. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has been a firm advocate of the Louvre deal by the Group of Seven countries, which focused on steadily raising the dollar, but the Governor said Britain had not engaged in much foreign exchange intervention within the context of that agreement.

Asked by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the Conservative MP, about the effects on industry of the pound's recent rise to DM3.10, the Governor stressed the need for a tight monetary policy. "I cannot accept that it would be within the interests of industry or the country that we should relax the present monetary stance," he said.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton stressed the continuing concern at the Bank of England over pay trends in the economy. "The increase in earnings and in wage settlements in this com-



Leigh-Pemberton: Stressed need for flexible approach

released on Friday, will prevent any early cut in base rates, helping to sustain the interest rate differential in sterling's favour.

The pound closed 2.1 cents higher at \$1.8575 and gained half a penny to DM3.0825. The sterling index rose by 0.4 points to 77.1.

Even without short-term concerns about the dollar, there are more fundamental worries.

The sweeping victory of the Reverend Jesse Jackson in the Michigan caucuses was seen as increasing the chances of the election of a US president with policies unfavourable to the financial markets.

Israel's Cabinet reportedly

## Four to one majority welcomed by RCN chief



Mr Trevor Clay speaking after the announcement of the result of the RCN poll yesterday (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

## Nurses support no-strike policy

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services  
Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing voted overwhelmingly in favour of keeping its no-strike policy, it was announced last night.

The results of the RCN ballot, a four-to-one majority, will be welcomed by the Government only days before it receives review body recommendations on nurses pay.

The Confederation of Health Service Unions said the ballot would allow the Government to meddle with the pay review body report "without fear of the consequences".

However, Mr Trevor Clay, RCN general secretary, said the result vindicated his view that nurses would never harm patients and showed that his 268,000 members were ready to take trade unionism into the next decade.

Mr Clay announced the establishment of an RCN commission on the future of the National Health Service, which will give evidence to the Prime Minister's review.

The results of the poll of 51 per cent of members showed that a 79 per cent majority, 107,492 to 27,736, were in favour of keeping the union's clause 12 which prohibits members from taking either strike action or more limited forms of industrial action.

Mr Clay said: "Industrial action is either a waste of time or it bites and affects people. Limited industrial action is the slip road to the motorway of strike action."

He said RCN nurses would not stand outside hospitals supporting strike action. "Emergency cover cannot be provided. There are shortages of nurses throughout the country."

The size of the poll and the majority was significantly higher than in 1979, 1980 and 1982 when a no-strike policy was put to the ballot.

Mr Clay attacked criticism that the wording of the ballot question amounted to bias. The ballot paper asked whether members endorsed the RCN's policy against strike action and its opposition to "any form of industrial action which places patients or clients at risk".

The back of the ballot paper put forward a series of arguments in favour of existing policy. Several nurses complained that the question was biased.

However the college maintained that a covering note putting forward the executive's view was normal in union ballots.

## Disputed Armenian region hit by strike

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

In a defiant gesture against the Kremlin, the majority Armenian population in the disputed Transcaucasian region of Nagorno-Karabakh has started a mass protest strike which is paralysing local industry and rail traffic.

Although the area remains out of bounds to all foreign journalists, the effectiveness of the action was revealed yesterday by Pravda in what Western observers said was an unprecedented account of a mass worker stoppage staged inside the Soviet Union for political purposes.

The newspaper's correspondent said that rail workers in the regional capital of Stepanakert, where more than 75 per cent of the population

is Armenian, refused to unload freight last weekend despite the announcement last week of a Kremlin plan to develop the region. Nagorno-Karabakh was handed over to Azerbaijan 65 years ago.

Pravda stated: "The difficult state of affairs which developed at Stepanakert station and at many enterprises of the region in February and March, due to people's absenteeism from work, has aggravated the situation not only in Nagorno-Karabakh but also, partly, in the entire republic of Azerbaijan."

It was the demand, made by most of the estimated 180,000 inhabitants, for the return of the remote and mountainous region to Armenian jurisdiction which sparked the ethnic crisis. The Kremlin has now twice had to send in troops to try to ensure control.

Pravda gave no indication Continued on page 24, col 7

## Fowler orders inquiry into TV and film 'closed shop'

By Roland Radd and Richard Evans

An inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into working practices in television and film production was announced last night by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment.

The investigation, which comes in the wake of the TV-am dispute and government claims of restrictive union practices in the television industry, could result in the first moves to abolish the closed shop throughout British industry.

Mr Fowler appeared to preempt the outcome of the investigation when he told the Commons the Government felt there was a prima-facie case that union practices in the film and television industries had begun to "unduly hinder the efficient use of labour" through restrictive practices which threatened competition.

The inquiry into what the Prime Minister has called "the last bastion of trade union restrictive practice" has been under consideration in Whitehall for weeks, but ministers decided to act after the fiasco last month involving the cancellation of *Betty*, a £4.5 million drama series starring Twiggy, commissioned by London Weekend Television.

The Government has been

determined to tackle the issues of overmanning, restrictions of non-unionised labour and the use of the closed shop in both the broadcasting and film industry.

Mr Fowler made it clear that if the commission's report, which is expected to reach its conclusion by the end of the year, produced evidence of practices which stifled "free competition", the Government would expect the employer to take firm action to end those practices.

Although *Betty* was to have been made by an independent producer on behalf of LWT, the Musicians' Union, supported by Equity, the actors

union, refused to allow the drama to be made under the agreement normally governing independent productions.

Ministers immediately interpreted the union move as a test case with shop stewards trying to impose old-style restrictive practices.

With the Prime Minister already angered by what she saw as union restrictions imposed on Super Channel, ITV's European satellite service, launched by her a year ago, the Government had ample excuse to act.

The Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, whose 229 members at TV-am were dismissed after they took industrial action before Christmas, condemned the move.

Mr Roy Lockett, deputy general secretary, said: "This reference is an unprecedented attack on free collective bargaining."

Twiggy, who was to have produced as well as starred in *Betty*, said: "In my recent experience with the production of *Betty* as a result of the action of two unions and without prior consultation with their members, over 250 people were denied the right to work, including myself. That is wrong."

New legislation planned by the Government could make it tougher for shotgun certificates to be obtained but might not make their revocation any easier.

Doubts about Weaver's possession of a certificate were raised in February 1986 when he was found asleep in his car in North Wales with a shotgun and more than 200 cartridges. His mother had reported him missing.

The Welsh police confiscated the gun and Weaver was examined under the Mental Health Act. He was passed sane and the gun was returned.

Commenting on the case, Mr John Harland, assistant chief constable of Avon and

Somerset, said: "I, my officers and the police service as a whole are reluctant to take on board 24 hours a day arming. However, if the criminal use of arms escalates, and it is progressively doing so, we may have to rethink that issue."

As each side raises the stakes, the referees and those that guard them are caught in the middle. They are a problem that won't go away.

I visited Hci Ling Chau last Friday. As I left, a small girl, about five years old grasped two of my fingers in one of her hands. She smiled as I exaggeratedly prised myself free, and I felt like poison as the camp door closed behind me.

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With two winners yesterday (see page 3), Portfolio Accumulator still stands at £128,000. Portfolio offers two chances: the daily prize of £4,000, or — if your number is higher than the daily total — the contents of the Accumulator fund.

## Prescott may fight Hattersley

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

The prospect of a wider Labour leadership contest opened up last night when Mr John Prescott indicated that he may join Mr Eric Haffer in challenging Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership.

Mr Prescott, Labour's energy spokesman, made it plain to a meeting of the Tribune Group that he is seriously considering standing and that his union, the National Union of Seamen, has dropped its objections to him entering the race.

His statement came at the end of the meeting after the group had voted by 38 to 16 for a motion condemning the election forced last week by Mr Tony Benn and Mr Haffer as "futile and divisive" and supporting the leadership of Mr Kinnoch and Mr Hattersley.

## TIMES FOCUS

The Audit Commission has existed for only five years but has already identified massive savings that could be made by local authorities. Pages 20, 21

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## Army seals off Palestinians

Jerusalem (AP) — The Israeli Army is to close off the West Bank and Gaza Strip early today for three days in anticipation of disturbances called by the PLO to mark a Palestinian anniversary, an army spokesman said yesterday.

The measure, which is unprecedented since the areas were captured in the 1967 Middle East war, bars independent news coverage and prevents Israelis and Arabs from entering the occupied zones. The only exception is

the 65,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are not restricted.

Major General Ephraim Lapid also said the Army also was to close the two bridges across the Jordan River to prevent Palestinians from crossing to Arab countries. Incoming traffic is not affected, he said.

"Journalists authorized to enter the areas may do so only if accompanied by an IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) representative," he said.

Israel's Cabinet reportedly authorized the measures on Sunday. Israeli officials said the move was intended to lessen tensions tomorrow, when Palestinians will mark Land Day, the 12th anniversary of a 1976 clash between Israeli soldiers and Arabs over the confiscation of Arab land.

"The purpose is to keep the territories quiet. It is not directed specifically against the press, but we don't want to give the people of the areas any reason for causing disturbances," said the official.

Braced for unrest, page 7

## Hong Kong camp victims the princess won't see

From Chris Pommery  
Hong Kong

When the Princess Royal tours the Tuen Mun "closed camp" for Vietnamese refugees next September in her capacity as President of Save The Children Fund she will not see the whole story.

The Save The Children Fund organizes educational and social activities for 1,881 refugees in a camp housing 412 families, 300 single women and 12 unaccompanied children. Some have been held behind double 20 ft fences for six years.

The Princess will see a kindergarten, well stocked with books, crayons and toys. Outside there is grass to play on. Inside, there is semblance of privacy. Three-tiered

bunks, 8 ft by 6 ft by 3 ft, can be home for three people on each level.

Tuen Mun is not unpleasant. But what the Princess will not see is the other two camps which make up the Hong Kong Government's "closed camp" policy — Chi Ma Wan and Hci Ling Chau — and which certainly are unpleasant.

Hci Ling Chau is a tiny island on the outer edge of Hong Kong's harbour. It is the closest thing to a penal colony Hong Kong has, and nearly 3,000 refugees share the island with a drug rehabilitation centre.

There is an overspill of 50 people in each hut, so an extra line of bunks has been added in the middle. Two people cannot pass side-by-side in the passage between the bunks. Only toddlers

can sit upright on them. Thin cloth on a piece of string separates families.

Hci Ling Chau was built in 1983, a year after the "closed camp" policy of forcible detention was introduced to deter new arrivals. Last year, arrivals outstripped departures for the first time since 1979. Hong Kong's legislators want to sharpen the deterrent and are furious about Britain's failure to solve the problem.

The Hong Kong Government is pinning its hopes on increased resettlement offers and is reluctant to shift its short-term policy of containment to a long-term strategy of integration.

Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State with responsibility for Hong Kong, recently informed local legislators that

Britain was not increasing its 20-a-month quota.

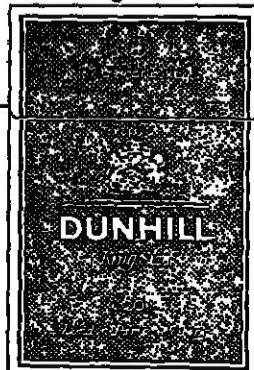
Hong Kong has already taken 14,500 of the 116,300 arrivals in the past 13 years and does not want any more. The direct cost, since 1979, runs to HK\$794 million (£55.5 million), or less than Hong Kong's avid punters would bet at two race meetings.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Women in 9-hour handcuff ordeal

Two elderly women, one aged 90, appeared to be making a good recovery yesterday after they had been handcuffed to the staircase of their manor house by thieves who escaped with paintings, silver and antiques worth £10,000.

Miss Henrietta Gaskell, who has run the house on the 2,000-acre Conholt estate near Andover, Hampshire, for 46 years, and her companion, Miss Marjorie Mills, aged 67, spent four hours in the handcuffs and another five cutting themselves free with a file from a toolbox kept under the stairs. The women told the robbers where to find the keys to the safe after the two men threatened to kill Miss Gaskell's Labrador dog. The thieves had cut the telephone wire and the electricity supply.

Det Insp Richard West said: "The two men asked the ladies if they would like a drink of Scotch, whereupon Miss Mills replied she would like a gin and tonic so they gave it to her."

## Talks at Jaguar

Talks between unions and management at Jaguar in Coventry began yesterday in an attempt to avert a strike by 4,000 manual workers over the company's plans for increased productivity.

Manual workers in Coventry voted by almost two to one last week for a strike if the company proceeded with proposals to produce 92 more cars each week.

Six thousand Land-Rover workers at Solihull, West Midlands, returned to work yesterday after voting by four to one in a ballot to end their five-week-old strike over pay.

## Gay case at GCHQ

A data processor at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham, suspended after confessing he was homosexual, won the right yesterday to challenge the decision in the High Court.

Mr Andrew Hodges, aged 21, of Grafton Road, Cheltenham, was not in court to hear Mr Terry Munyard, his counsel, describe as "patent nonsense" claims by GCHQ that his homosexuality left him "vulnerable to pressure or blackmail".

His positive vetting clearance was withdrawn last March.

## Fumes killed scientist

The eighth Marconi scientist to die in mysterious circumstances was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning, an inquest was told yesterday. Trevor Knight, aged 52, who was found slumped in his car last Friday at his home in Pigott Hill Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, was a computer manager at GEC's plant in Stanmore, Middlesex. Police said that Mr Knight was not engaged in any classified work and would not confirm reports that a hosepipe was connected to his car's exhaust. After Mr Knight's death, Mr Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, called for a government inquiry into the deaths of the scientists who were all involved in defence work.

## Freezer foods

The British are, together with the Danes and the Swedes, the largest consumers of frozen foods in Europe. However, consumption, at 21.3kg (47 lb) a year, is still barely more than half the 40.2kg eaten every year in the United States.

A survey by Birds Eye, the frozen food company, shows that just over 5 per cent of our food is bought in frozen form, and expenditure is about £2 billion. The most popular items are fish, green vegetables, burgers and grills, and prepared meals. More than three-quarters of all households own a freezer.

## Axe attack charges

Everett Watson, aged 46, was charged yesterday with two counts of attempted murder and one of grievous bodily harm after an axe and knife attack on a church congregation. Mr Watson, a panel beater, of Norcot Road, Reading, Berkshire, will appear at Reading, today after attacks on three worshippers at the town's Pentecostal Church of God and Christ United on Sunday.

## Botham's raft trip threatened

The planned crossing of the Rhone by Ian Botham, the England cricketer, on an open raft with three elephants was in jeopardy yesterday after the French Army withdrew from the venture.

Botham intends to navigate the fast-flowing river at Montchaux, near the southern French town of Orange next week, as part of his 500-mile fund-raising expedition in the footsteps of Hannibal, the Carthaginian general.

The French had promised a raft for Botham's crossing but on Friday the expedition's British sponsors, the General Portfolio Group, were told it would no longer be available.

No formal reason has been given by the army but Mr Mervyn Edgecombe, the project director, said the decision had nothing to do with the Australian film on Botham last week.

The French pull-out means that the cricketer's march into Orange with military band may also be abandoned.

The expedition's organizers are trying to mount a civilian operation and were yesterday seeking the help of John Blashford-Snell, the British explorer.

A main problem is that the Rhone is in spate at this time of year; an earlier plan had been to use giant British Army inflatable boats but they were considered too light and too expensive to transport.

The Rhone crossing had been arranged as the centrepiece of Botham's sponsored walk from Perpignan to Turin to raise money for leukaemia research.

Botham fined, page 48

## Post price freeze for summer

The freeze on the cost of posting letters was extended yesterday until the end of August.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, promised last year that the 18p first class stamp and the 13p second class would be held until this Easter and yesterday, in the wake of record business, he announced the decision to extend the freeze.

Mail costs might not rise even then, for the Post Office said yesterday that no decision had been made on future prices. First class postage last went up, by 1p, in 1986 after a two-year freeze.

"In real terms, the cost of postage has come down by 12 per cent in the past five years. This, in itself, has led to record levels of business", the Post Office said.

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Botham fined, page 48

Present plans for investment in consumer services, about £2 billion over the next five years, appeared to be inadequate. There was a huge task to do putting right the

problems of today, let alone coping with future growth. He did not know how much additional investment would be needed but £3 billion was a possible figure. It is not thought that wholesale privatization of public transport would work and the brunt of investment costs would have to be borne initially by the Government.

The study was carried out by the City Commuter Services Group, of which Mr Pelly is chairman, which represents a wide spread of

## Solicitors still undecided on mixed partnership

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs  
Correspondent

The Law Society council is expected to defer a decision on whether solicitors can form mixed partnerships with other professionals to offer "one stop shopping" services when the issue comes up for reconsideration next month.

The issue, the most divisive the solicitors' profession has faced in recent years, has been deferred once at the society's council meeting last month.

Now a paper is expected to go to next month's council meeting, which sets out a possible strategy on mixed partnerships but which will avoid the need for the council having to vote positively one way or the other.

The paper, still in draft, has been drawn by the standards and guidance committee of the Law Society. It is expected to go soon for approval to the society's key strategy committee and if endorsed

A six-year delay in a High Court case involving a claim for £6,000 was criticized as a farce by a High Court judge yesterday.

Mr Justice Michael Davies said that if he were a "millionaire judge" he would pay for a full page in a national newspaper to advertise his observations.

He said the delay in the case was caused by the parties themselves, which was unfair to thousands of other people waiting for their cases to be tried.

There, to proceed to council members.

That is likely to put before solicitors the option of retaining the status quo, which means taking no further action beyond the already agreed package of reforms which allow the solicitors to incorporate, to have off certain business activities in separate companies and to enter into arrangements with building societies and others for work to be introduced.

Many people felt the delays were caused by the courts, but often, as in this case, they were not, he said.

The judge said costs in the case, by the time it came to trial, would probably be several times the £6,000 claimed.

Mr Justice Davies has been appointed by the Lord Chief Justice to take charge of the listing of cases in the Queen's Bench division, with a view to cutting delays.

He has taken a number of steps to ease the backlog.

Alternatively, the paper will suggest that discussions could be set in train with other professions as to how mixed partnerships might work in practice.

The profession is split over the desirability of allowing solicitors to form mixed partnerships although the Office of Fair Trading is in favour, and in Scotland, the Government has already issued a consultation paper proposing mixed

Spot checks are being carried out after complaints by judges that they are not being fully utilized.

More cases are being listed as "floating" so that vacant slots can be filled at short notice.

Mr Justice Davies has also recommended that people who suffer from delays caused by lawyers in pursuing claims should be entitled to attend court to be told publicly the reasons for any hold-up, instead of being told by the lawyers afterwards.

partnerships, to be debated at a meeting today organized by the Law Society of Scotland.

Most Scottish solicitors are thought to be against change to allow mixed practices.

A conference organized recently by the International Bar Association in Vienna, attended by nearly 40 representatives of European bars, concluded that in the end, governmental and economic pressures

would force the introduction of mixed partnerships.

The conference, the findings of which have not been reported, was told that multi-disciplinary or mixed partnerships only occur, and then with limited scope, in The Netherlands and West Germany.

They are prohibited in the rest of Western Europe although it is thought they would be permissible in Denmark, Norway, Spain and The Netherlands.

At the conference, Mr Derek Bradbeer, president of the Law Society of England and Wales, said that in spite of government pressure for the introduction of mixed practices only the interests of the consumer, the majority of the profession was against it.

He said that in his view such practices might be accepted only where solicitors were in the majority and retained control, but that might be unacceptable to the Government and other professions.

## King calls talks after Hume sees the Provos

By John Cooney and David Nicholson-Lord

A fresh attempt to break the deadlock among Northern Ireland's main political parties will be made today in Belfast by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr King will meet a delegation from the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the constitutional nationalist party, headed by Mr John Hume.

As pressure continued to mount on the Government yesterday to regain the initiative from the paramilitaries, it was disclosed that Mr Hume held further talks last week with Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA.

It was confirmed yesterday that the SDLP-Sinn Féin "summit" was held last Wednesday only four days after the killing of two soldiers by an IRA mob in West Belfast. However, the Provisionals made clear last night there was no hope of a ceasefire.

Despite hostile Unionist reaction to the news of the meeting between the military and constitutional nationalist sides, no substantial damage appeared to have been done to Mr King's attempt to build up the momentum for political dialogue.

Mr Hume was given a vote of confidence by his party at the weekend for his exploratory talks with Sinn Féin which aimed to produce an end to IRA violence.

However, Mr Edward McGrady, MP for South Down, voiced misgivings that those talks with extreme republicans might jeopardize the prospect of fruitful dialogue with the Unionists.

Mr Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Féin, said it would be misleading to connect his party's talks with Mr Hume to the SDLP's discussions with Mr King.

Mr Adams said that the only way in which Mr King could play a constructive role in talks was "to organize the British Government to leave Ireland".

Mr Adams defended the discussions. "John Hume and myself are the only people, against a background of consistent appeals by church leaders and others for talking, who are prepared to grasp the nettle and engage in the exchange of political views."

Mr Hume has also reacted positively to a weekend gesture from Mr James Moynihan, the leader of the Official Unionists, for a wider political debate outside the context of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr Hume described as encouraging the new fluidity of politics in Northern Ireland. Mr Moynihan had said: "The Unionists wanted an end to the ancient quarrel between Britain and Ireland."

Left-wing leaders of a branch of Nalga, the local government union, are refusing to rescind a letter of sympathy sent to the families of the three IRA bombers killed in Gibraltar.

Moderate members of the union's branch in Hammer-smith, west London, voted at an extraordinary meeting last week to withdraw the letter, which condemned what it called the Government's "tyranny and oppression".

The executive does not propose to discuss the issue until after Easter. Union members predicted mass resignations unless action was taken.

The strongest criticism, however, of Mr Hume's continuation of talks with Sinn Féin came from Mr Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the more hardline Democratic Unionists.

He said that Mr Hume was engaged in a rescue mission of the IRA which had lost credibility for its perpetration of the Poppy Day massacre in Enniskillen and its murder of the two soldiers.

Last night, a group of leading Ulster Unionists launched a campaign for a devalued parliament and government in Northern Ireland with provision for a Bill of Rights, a referendum, and involvement of the Roman Catholic community at ministerial level.

A key feature of the proposals is the creation of a regional Ulster government with substantial powers over legislation, finance and security, to be set up only after a referendum which expressed a demonstrable "cross community majority" in its favour.

Backers of the proposals, who are to mount a publicity campaign, include Mr Harry West, the former Unionist leader, and Mr John Gorman, former chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Mr Peter McLachlan, a Belfast charity director and chairman of the group, condemned "recent acts of carnage and savagery done in the name of political objectives".

Both Irish unity and integration with the United Kingdom were passports to "perpetual political violence".

Mr McLachlan added: "The only way in which such violence can be effectively controlled and ultimately eliminated is for the decent law-abiding majority of Catholics and Protestants, Unionists and nationalists, to become responsible together for restoring and maintaining law and order."

Two men were being questioned last night about the killing of Corporal Derek Wood and Corporal David Howes. The men were arrested on Saturday.

## Images for the Duchess



Sir Roy Strong, author of *Beaton Royal Portraits*, presents the Duchess of York with a boxed set of seven photographs at the fair, including one of the Duke of York as a baby.

By Andrew Billen

The Duchess of York opened the largest London International Book Fair yesterday with no one quite sure whether it deserved its place on the literary map.

The fair started life 17 years ago at the Small and Specialist Publishers Exhibition for Librarians with only 23 exhibitors.

Now there are more than 420 stands sprawling over three levels at Olympia. The fair's original purpose — to sell books to librarians — has been obscured by the ambitions of organizers who want it eventually to rival the giant annual Frankfurt book fair where last year 700 companies from Britain alone exhibited.

Mr Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber, said little important business would be done at Olympia.

Both Macmillan and Cen-

tury Hutchinson have boycotted this year's fair.

Mr Anthony Cheetham, chairman of Century Hutchinson, has accused it of being unable to make up its mind whether it is there to help sell foreign rights or simply books to booksellers in Britain.

Mr Michael Turner, president of the Publishers Association, speaking at the opening of the fair, said its strength was that it could be both.

The Duchess of York was greeted by record crowds and *Publishing News*, the trade weekly, is producing a daily edition as the fair tries to come of age.

It is taking place against the background of a publishing industry transformed in the past year by a furious round of takeovers and mergers that have boosted the value of publishing houses.

The mergers and consolidations have not stopped the growth in the number of publishers in Britain, amounting to a fairly credible 13,000 at the last count.

Nor has it reduced the number of titles published, nearly 60,000 last year and up by almost 5,000 in two years.

However, it has widened the gap between the big fish and the sprats. The Publishing Association said: "The big are getting bigger and the small are getting more specialist. For those in the middle it is a fast and exciting time, although that may be a euphemism."

Perhaps it was appropriate that the literary agent Mrs Deborah Owen, wife of the SDP leader, was last night due to sing at a fair review entitled "Pandemonium".

## Badger author's US fortune

By Andrew Morgan

The publishing success story of Mr Aeron Clement, a prematurely retired South Wales businessman, who has made a fortune from his first novel about a family of badgers, took another lucrative turn yesterday when a publisher bought the American rights for \$250,000 (about £135,000).

Mr Clement, aged 53, who was forced to retire after a series of heart attacks, has sold the British rights for £140,000 to Penguin Books after he and a partner had published privately an initial print run of 5,000 copies.

He was due to have a heart by-pass operation tomorrow at a Southampton hospital but his consultant has postponed

the operation for four weeks because he believes the present excitement is not conducive to surgery.

Mr Clement, already compared with Richard Adams, author of *Watership Down*, heard yesterday of the American deal with the publishers Dellacourt, as he was promoting his book, *The Cold Moors*, at the London Book Fair at Olympia.

Dutch rights were also expected to be sold yesterday and there was intense interest from Italy, Sweden, Spain and France. Fierce negotiations over film rights are also taking place with Hollywood.

The novel evolved after Mr Clement, from Llandeilo, Dyfed, retired from his job as

managing director of a building firm and he took to watching wildlife.

He saw, one day, that a badger had had his back broken by gangs of baiters to make it easier for dogs to attack. He was appalled, and after months talking about it with his wife, he was persuaded to write it down in fiction form.

The novel took several years in gestation and early reactions from publishers were unfavourable.

Mr Clement showed it to Mr Bernard Kindred, his local public house landlord, who liked it so much that he suggested a publishing partnership.

## Industry fails to back Sci-tech

By Robert Matthews  
Technology Correspondent

Plans for the first national exhibition to encourage children to become scientists and technologists have collapsed, and organizers blame the failure of British companies to respond.

Sci-tech '88, scheduled to take place in June, was the idea of Professor Paul Cook, of Brunel University, who has won backing from the Prince of Wales for his creation of a trust for the promotion of science among young people.

Last summer Professor Cook joined the owners of Brands Hatch to stage the exhibition, in which British companies were to show the results of their latest research in an effort to fire the interest of schoolchildren in scientific careers.

However, the racing circuit organizers have decided to pull out, claiming that British industry failed to provide tangible support for the venture, despite initial enthusiasm.

A member of the organizing team said yesterday only 30 per cent of the total exhibition space was sold, and he estimated that the losses would be in excess of £100,000. He said that the impression received by the organizers was that the companies failed to support the venture because they could not see an immediate return on their investment.

## Ford rules out move on Rover

By Daniel Ward

Ford has ruled out making a hostile bid for Rover Group in opposition to British Aerospace. Only in the highly unlikely event of the BAe bid failing would Ford respond to a government approach and re-enter the bidding it is understood.

Two years ago the Government encouraged Ford to consider a takeover of Rover with Austin Rover but the company retreated amid a political furor that came in the wake of the Westland affair and General Motors' abortive attempts to win control of Land Rover as part of a deal to rescue the loss making Leyland Trucks operation.

Within Austin Rover, a handful of former Ford employees and other executives worked to defeat the Ford takeover.

The strength of the political backing for the "British solution" for privatizing Rover has convinced Ford, it is understood, that even offering a generous price for the state-owned car maker would not defeat BAe.

## City calls for £3bn rail improvements

By Rodney Cowton  
Transport Correspondent

British Rail's Network South-East and London Underground may need to spend an extra £3 billion on improved rail facilities to cope with the growth of traffic into the City of London, a commuter pressure group said yesterday.

Launching a study of the future needs of City commuters, Mr Derek Pelly, a former deputy chairman of Barclays Bank, said the present situation for commuters was "unsatisfactory and unacceptable". Unless something was done the future looked "very grim".

Present plans for investment in consumer services, about £2 billion over the next five years, appeared to be inadequate. There was a huge task to do putting right the

problems of today, let alone coping with future growth. He did not know how much additional investment would be needed but £3 billion was a possible figure. It is not thought that wholesale privatization of public transport would work and the brunt of investment costs would have to be borne initially by the Government.

The study was carried out by the City Commuter Services Group, of which Mr Pelly is chairman, which represents a wide spread of

from Paddington, and from London Underground which has put forward plans for a high-speed service linked to the Tube network, with limited steps outside central London.

City activities. It is based on a questionnaire sent to more than 5,000 city firms. Of those, 750 firms employing 179,000 people responded.

The group says that inadequate provision of commuter facilities could encourage financial institutions to leave the City and jeopardize its £9.5 billion contribution to the balance of payments.

Nearly all respondents thought it was "vital" that the existing quality of commuter services should be maintained and nearly two thirds thought they should be improved.

The three aspects of commuter services most frequently criticized were punctuality, overcrowding and insufficient trains early in the day and later in the evenings.

One firm commented that more man-hours were lost because of train cancellations and delays than through any other cause.

In the five years up to 1992 City employment was forecast to grow by 16 per cent, although it is thought that may now be delayed by two years as a result of last October's stock market crash.

The report criticizes the age of BR rolling stock, which is 47 years old on the Waterloo and City line. It also cites London Underground's Central Line which carries 23,000 passengers an hour at peak times, against a planned capacity of 18,000.

## Office bar on County Hall

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

County Hall, that most desirable property standing across the Thames from the Houses of Parliament, is looking not only for a new owner two years after the Greater London Council was abolished, but also for a practical role.

The possible options for the listed building, opened by King George V in 1922 and completed in 1933, are narrowing after the High Court yesterday refused planning permission for its use as offices "for any purpose".

The judgement by Mr Justice Brown provides the latest set-back in the plans of the London Residuary Body, which was set up to dispose of the GLC's assets, to get on with the sale of the jewel in its crown. A planning inquiry held last year decided that

County Hall should continue to be used as local government offices, and came down against its use as a hotel, or as luxury flats or general offices.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, opposed his inspector on its office potential, and overruled him. Yesterday's High Court decision came after the Inner London Education Authority (Ilea), London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, the London Waste Regulation Authority and the Borough of Lambeth, all faced with eviction, came together to fight Mr Ridley's decision.

It is likely that Mr Ridley will appeal against the High Court ruling, for the Government is determined to dispose of the complex privately, tak-

ing it away from local authority use.

When the agent, Richard Ellis, launched a marketing campaign for the complex at the end of 1986, it envisaged County Hall becoming a hotel with a mixture of residential space, leisure and retail outlets, conference facilities and offices. While it did not rule out the use of the whole complex as offices, it thought offices would be much more suitable for the four satellite blocks.

It was originally intended that the complex would be sold freehold, with vacant possession, at a price estimated at between £100 million and £300 million, depending on use, by March 31 this year, but with only two days to go, Ilea is still there.

Hungerford  
copycat  
killer sent  
Broadmoor

Mother appeals

Camera traps

Bid to plug £4



'I wanted to kill my girl. I saw her and changed my mind. I still like her'

# Hungerford copycat killer sent to Broadmoor

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

A gun enthusiast who modelled himself on Michael Ryan and studied the Hungerford massacre killed four people as he sought revenge on his former fiancée, a court in Bristol was told yesterday.

Kevin Weaver, aged 24, an unemployed clerk, was sent to Broadmoor for life after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of his mother, sister and two men last October.

In court he was described as a psychopath whose depressive condition impaired responsibility for the deaths.

In the space of a few hours he bludgeoned his mother and sister to death and then went in search of Miss Alison Woodman, aged 21, who had broken off her engagement to him, at the factory where she worked.



Miss Woodman, saved by a gunman's change of mind.

Two men died as Weaver ran amok. When he found Miss Woodman the gunman decided to spare her and was arrested in his car by two unarmed traffic policemen.

Weaver told them: "Was it only two? I thought I had shot at least three people. You will find my gun in the car. I just wanted to shoot my girl friend as well. You were lucky I did not shoot you."

He told the officers he had intended to kill Miss Woodman. "For the past two years I have wanted to kill her - to punish her. But as soon as I saw her I changed my mind. I still like her", he said.

He asked what had happened to his home. When police arrived there they found that the terrace house where his family lay, had been turned into a crude bomb using the domestic gas supply.

Yesterday Weaver, his arms folded, pleaded not guilty to murdering his mother Margaret, aged 55, and sister Linda, aged 27, found at the family home in Roseberry Park, Redfield, Bristol, on October 14 last year.

He also pleaded not guilty to murdering David Pursall, 29, a computer manager and former policeman, of Downend Park Road, Downend, Bristol, and John Peterson, aged 48, an accountant, of Faddock Gardens, Alveston, near Bristol, the same day. They were killed with a shotgun in the factory of Alexan-



The man and the arms: Kevin Weaver, the psychopathic killer, and weapons he had in his car during a murder spree after his girl friend rejected him.

dra Workwear at Patchway in the northern outskirts of Bristol.

Weaver pleaded guilty to manslaughter on all four deaths. Mr Paul Chadd, QC, for the prosecution, said the Crown would not pursue the murder charges in view of medical reports but would accept pleas of guilty to manslaughter.

Before the prosecution outlined the case against Weaver, Mr Justice Webster agreed to allow the defendant to wait outside court. The court was told Weaver felt that hearing the horrors of the attack again would affect him.

Opening the case, Mr Chadd told the court Weaver taped part of the television

coverage of Ryan's Hungerford killings and thought of visiting the Berkshire town, Mr Chadd said.

Weaver's bloody trail in Bristol bore marked similarities. Like Ryan, Weaver killed his mother, set fire to his house, was obsessed with guns and had body armour.

The court heard Weaver ordered a flak jacket from a supplier of military goods, specifying it should be capable of stopping a .38 bullet, which is the standard handgun ammunition used by police.

Mr Chadd said: "Police saw Weaver as an appalling danger to the public. His detachment from reality was chilling." At one point his only comment on the affair was to complain

to police that he had not been given the morning paper he asked for.

Describing events last October Mr Chadd said Weaver was living with his mother and sister in their terrace house. Previously he worked as an accounts clerk with an engineering company where he met and went out with a Miss Woodman. They became engaged in 1983 but two years later she ended it.

"He was undoubtedly very upset, but we remained on speaking terms and occasionally had a drink together", she said later.

Weaver told police he wanted to kill Miss Woodman to punish her. His original plan was to kill her as she

made her way to work and he reconnoitred the area deciding that his plan was unworkable.

He began his attack by killing his family because he did not want them hurt if he went to prison. He bludgeoned his mother and sister to death using two hammers.

On the morning of the killings Weaver drove to the factory, walking in with a shotgun hidden in a golf bag. Also in the car were a Soviet shotgun, another sawn-off shotgun and up to 800 rounds of ammunition. He strode past a startled receptionist to the computer room which he had seen on an earlier sortie.

Entering the room he laid down the bag and withdrew a shotgun. As he grabbed for

Miss Woodman he said: "Come on, we're going". She ran away, slipping below a table for safety as he fired the first shot. In the pandemonium more shots were fired and the two men were fatally injured.

Weaver later told police: "A bloke came towards me so I just shot him. He was screaming so I shot him again. I did not want him to be in pain."

Mr Pursall was gunned down when he approached Weaver. Police believe the former policeman was trying to disarm the gunman.

Another shot tore through partitioning and injured Mr Peterson who died on way to hospital.

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winner to opt for hot water

A retired prison officer will be happily in hot water after sharing the Portfolio daily prize of £4,000 yesterday.

Mr Horatio Woodward, aged 69, of Hanley Road, Hill, North, Humberston, said he would pay for a new shower unit and share the rest with his son Nigel.

The other winner, Mr David Lumsden, aged 46, of Palfrey Close, St Albans, Hertfordshire, said he planned to spend the money on his architecture business and on a holiday for his wife and three children.

## Doctor to give evidence for young killer

The Court of Appeal yesterday adjourned the case of a young woman who received a life sentence last year for killing her mother, to hear new evidence from a specialist in pre-menstrual tension.

The doctor claims that the responsibility of Anne Louise Reynolds, aged 19, of Brackley, Northamptonshire, for the killing was diminished.

## Madeira is a paradise for walkers

Camacha, Madeira (Reuters) - Most visitors to Portugal's Atlantic island of Madeira come to breathe the fresh sea breeze, bask in the warm climate or taste its famous wine. But Madeira is little known for one of its prime attractions - miles of paths winding through beautiful scenery that make it a paradise for walkers.

Stabbed girl 'a butterfly wanting to be free'

## Mother appeals to parents

By Craig Seton

The mother of a murdered girl aged 13 appealed to parents yesterday to warn their children about walking alone. She said she forgave her daughter's killer.

Mrs Beryl Baldwin, aged 41, said she had told her daughter Carol about the dangers of going out by herself. However, her daughter, who was described by a Methodist minister as a "butterfly who wanted to be free", believed she could defend herself.

Mrs Baldwin, of South Holme Court, Northampton, said: "Young people of today think their parents are old-fashioned and do not know what they are talking about."

"But as parents we have got to be firm and tell them these things do happen and they have got to be so careful."

Mrs Baldwin and her husband Terence, aged 40, a production worker, were speaking two days after their daughter was killed by a single knife blow in the back as she

took a short cut across a football pitch near her home.

Detectives believe Carol may not have heard her killer because she was listening to her personal cassette stereo player. Taped pop music was still playing when her body was found by four youths.

Mrs and Mrs Baldwin, who have twin daughters aged 11 and a son aged 18 months, are regular churchgoers. When asked if she forgave her daughter's killer, Mrs Baldwin hesitated then whispered: "Yes".

She said: "I feel sorry for him. There was no reason for it unless it was mistaken identity. He could not have wanted to kill her. If anybody knows anything, they must come forward for that person's sake because he obviously needs help."

The Rev Elizabeth Mayes, a local Methodist minister, said Carol was a "butterfly" who "wanted to be free to enjoy life and resented any kind of restriction or restraint".

The police believe they have traced one of two men seen near the murder scene. Officers were hoping to interview the man.

Meanwhile, police in Kent are continuing a hunt for a knife artist, after the death of Amanda Hopkinson, aged 17, an estate agent employee, of Summerhouse Drive, Bexley, south-east London, who was found on an isolated track near Dartford last Saturday. She died later in hospital.

A woman police officer will retrace the steps of Deborah Ann Linsley, aged 26, whose body was found in a British Rail train at Victoria Station, London, last Wednesday, in a search for clues to her killer. The officer will ride in the same compartment on the 2.16pm Orpington to Victoria train from Potts Wood station, Kent, tomorrow.

An inquest into the death of Miss Linsley, a hotel front-of-house manager, of Lakeside Drive, Bromley, Kent, was adjourned yesterday.

## Whitehall stress test funds cut

By David Cross

Research to find out whether Civil Servants can be cured of raised blood pressure by meditation and other relaxation techniques may be abandoned because of a lack of funds.

The three-year study into a group of 1,600 middle-aged Civil Servants suffering from mild hypertension has been financed mainly by grants of £289,000 from the Health Promotion Research Trust and a small grant from the Medical Research Council.

Half of the group, which was drawn from 11,000 Civil Servants, aged between 35 and 55, at 11 government departments, were given standard treatment including advice on diet, exercise and reducing smoking and drinking.

The other half were attending relaxation therapy courses at the University College, London, and Middlesex Hospital. Part of the treatment involved attaching monitoring machines to find out how deeply they could relax using meditation techniques.

However, the trust said initial results showed the changes in blood pressure had not been as dramatic as had been hoped. That would make it difficult to draw clear conclusions from any of the evidence collected. As a result, the trust had decided not to renew its grant.

Dr Chandra Patel, senior lecturer in community medicine at University College, said: "This is most unfortunate because we believe that relaxation techniques could be a better way to prevent heart attacks than using drugs and we have never had such a large group of people in one experiment."

Professor Michael Marmot, head of the department, said the investigation was going as well as expected. He was confident another sponsor could be found so long-term research could be carried out. "We have been working in close collaboration with the Civil Servants in our sample and had great cooperation from their bosses and their union representatives".

## Remand after 'publicity stunt' siege

A six-hour police siege costing £250,000 and involving 300 officers on Saturday stemmed from an elaborate publicity stunt, a court was told yesterday.

Stuart Riches, aged 39, a former security guard, rang the News Of The World newspaper, claiming that he was

holding hostage Wendy Neil, aged 20, and her daughter Louise, aged two, at a house in Kensington Gardens, Ilford, north-east London, where they were staying.

The call sparked off a police operation involving armed marksmen and helicopters, Mr Roger Daniels-Smith, for

the prosecution, told magistrates at Redbridge, north-east London.

Mr Riches had set up the siege, with the help of other tenants, to publicize the plight of people living in homes funded by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Riches was charged with unlawfully imprisoning Alan Assez, aged 48; threatening to Det Sergeant David Warner that he would kill Mrs Neil and her daughter; and possession of an imitation Colt .45 revolver with intent. He was remanded in custody.

# Tonight's big match

Edward Woodward v the KGB.



## CODENAME KYRIL

Edward Woodward plays the Chief of MI6 and Ian Charleson a KGB officer on the run in this tense 2-part Cold War spy-thriller.

TONIGHT AND TOMORROW 9.00 pm.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH INCITO A.S.

## Camera traps for motorists

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The police are to back the use of cameras at road junctions to photograph motorists who jump traffic lights. The police "spies" could be in widespread use before the end of the year.

Mr Peter Joslin, chief constable for Warwickshire and secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers traffic committee, said yesterday: "These cameras are very effective and we are encouraging their use."

No change in existing traffic law will be needed for the cameras to be introduced because corroboration is not required for the successful prosecution of motorists jumping red traffic lights. Police will have to wait only for approval from the Home Office's Police Requirement Unit before cameras can be used.

"The beauty of a camera at the roadside is that driver behaviour improves immeasurably", Mr Joslin added.

There will soon be three sets of police trials of camera-linked computer equipment for photographing speeding motorists. A change in the law would be necessary for their use but Mr Joslin is confident this will be included in the North Committee review of traffic law now being considered by ministers.

These sophisticated cameras, already widely used in Germany and The Netherlands, will prove particularly useful in motorway contraflows, which will soon be subject to a mandatory 50mph speed limit. This will be difficult for police to enforce due to the difficulty of stopping offenders.

Cameras placed at two road junctions for a six months' experiment in Nottingham have significantly reduced the number of drivers jumping traffic lights.

At one junction the number of motorists crossing when the lights have signalled stop has been reduced from 22 a day to eight.

No accident figures are yet available to indicate if the cameras have brought about a reduction in collisions. Nottingham City Council said yesterday: "The cameras are supposed to act as a deterrent and not to increase prosecutions". The council is still discussing with Nottingham police whether such photographs are admissible evidence for prosecution.

## Bid to plug £400m building site drain

By Our Crime Reporter

Building site thefts and vandalism are costing the industry more than £400 million a year with losses ranging from petty theft to the removal of mechanical equipment.

A conference at the Home Office today will seek new ways to combat the problem, against a background of incidents including the loss of generators, JCBs, an entire site office and a £218,000 ditching machine driven away from a motorway site.

The machine, weighing 20 tons, was the only one of its kind in the country and was last seen on the back of a lorry going through the Dartford Tunnel after being stolen from a Kent motorway.

The £400 million loss, calculated by the Building Employer's Confederation, is only the tip of the iceberg, according to

Mr Frederick Morris, the confederation's director of security.

Thefts can include anything from a few items of material for do-it-yourself to the loss of plant worth more than £90 million last year.

In a survey of 16 companies Mr Morris discovered their losses included 130 compressors, 199 generators, five trucks and four sets of traffic lights. The lights were used by road gangs and two sets were taken when workmen had a teabreak.

The site office disappeared after a security guard left it to go on patrol. His television set also vanished.

Mr Morris said he believed that most of the material was recycled within the building industry.

"It is so difficult to identify machine-

ry. If we could get some nationwide marking system that would prevent stuff going. Around 80 per cent of the thefts are preventable", he said.

Mr Morris, a former senior detective, runs a security advisory service for the building industry and is setting up a national network of crime committees. The committees can tap into information gathered by the confederation and organize local campaigns.

The results achieved by a crime committee formed by the confederation's Gwynedd branch and North Wales police last year were so encouraging, that Mr Morris contacted Mr John Fatten, Minister of State at the Home Office, who decided to hold today's conference. It will be attended by leading representatives of the industry and police chiefs.



March 28 1988

PARLIAMENT

# Opposition calls for review of Ilea schools

Mr Kenneth Baker should have the guts to reply on the debate on the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority, Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said on the final day of the report stage of the Education Reform Bill.

He was moving an amendment to delete a proposal in the Bill to abolish Ilea on April 1, 1990, and calling for a review of its work.

He expressed regret that the Secretary of State for Education and Science would not reply to the debate on the amendment.

This matter was central to Mr Baker's reputation, he said, and he ought to have the guts to reply.

Mr Baker intervened to say that the Government was totally opposed to the amendment. It would lead to a delay which was not good for the interests of the children of London.

The greatest service Mr Straw could do would be to encourage the London Labour boroughs to start planning for taking over education on April 1, 1990. That was what Conservative boroughs and Tower Hamlets were doing.

Mr Straw said that the Opposition had the interests of the children of London at heart. That was why there should be a review of Ilea's work first of all.

Included in a series of questions and answers prepared by Conservative Central Office about the Bill was an exchange about Ilea. The question posed was why Ilea should be abolished without a review.

The answer given was that there had been a long series of reviews and that had not resulted in any noticeable improvement in the performance of Ilea. It added that there was no reason to believe that a new review would be any more successful in raising standards. It would merely postpone the decision and prolong uncertainty.

He had then asked Mr Baker about this series of reviews. It had taken 10 days to get a reply. In it, Mr Baker said that there had been two internal government reviews of which had concluded that Ilea should remain in tact, and five other reviews, only one of which concluded that Ilea should go.

Mr Baker had also referred him to a review carried out by the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies. Even that said there were some powerful arguments for retaining broadly the structure of Ilea.

## EDUCATION

could at any time have cut it. As for his waspish words about the minister having been signalled in the manifesto, a train driver who followed that signal would have crashed right into the buffers, which was where Mr Baker would finish up.

The decision would damage not only the future of London's children but also that of Mr Baker. Indeed, a poll at the weekend showed that in the race for the leadership of the Conservative Party Mr Michael Heseltine had 17 per cent support, Mr Norman Tebbit 22 per cent, but Mr Baker, Mr Straw's hero, only managed 2 per cent.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C) said that Mr Heseltine had risen since they became associated with the abolition of Ilea. Perhaps Mr Straw would do himself a bit of good by joining them (Conservative laughter).

Mr Straw said that there had been an attempt by Conservative Central Office to discredit a ballot about the future

provided opportunities for ballot rigging on a considerable scale.

"I believe that is a wholly disgraceful allegation for Conservative Central Office and/or ministers to make against the Electoral Reform Society and the non-political London Parents' Action Group. I ask the Secretary of State to disown the claims made in this scandalous and scurrilous document, that there is going to be ballot rigging."

The simple fact was that the Government was frightened of the truth and that the ballot would result in rejection of its policy.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that not only was the Government frightened of the truth, it was contemptuous of it.

"When this Government talks about democracy, do not believe it. They are hypocrites and liars."

Mr Straw said that was absolutely right. Not only was the Government contemptuous of the Opposition, it was contemptuous of the electorate of London.

A review would give Mr Baker the opportunity of finding out about London's education for himself. During his two years as Secretary of State, he had visited only one school in inner London and that was a voluntary-aided school.

The policy of breaking up Ilea was a consequence, not of the best interests of London's children, but of the crude politics of the Conservative Party.

Mr Baker had a duty under the law to secure a varied and comprehensive education service in every area and he would be failing in that duty unless he and the Government, for once, thought before they acted.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Bellingham North, C) said that Ilea should have had more courage in relocating teachers from those highly favoured schools with pupil-teacher ratios as low as 8:1 into other, particularly church schools, where the ratios were much inferior. Ilea had been vindictive in its attitude to church schools.

Once its abolition had been approved by the Commons, it should begin immediate discussions with the inner London boroughs about the handover of responsibilities. It would be its most serious failure if London's children if it failed to do so.

But the Government must consider preserving cross-London arrangements for adult education, special-needs education and sports provision in schools.

In the end, Ilea's shortcomings had undermined its successes. It had failed to have sufficiently high expectations of its children, particularly those from single-parent and ethnic minority families.



Mr Jack Straw: "Mr Baker lacks guts"

of Ilea, being taken among the parents of London schoolchildren and run by the non-political London Parents' Action Group with the Electoral Reform Society.

Conservative Central Office had sent out a disgraceful letter to provide excuses for what they clearly expected to be an overwhelming victory for Ilea by "rubbing" the ballot.

The letter, he said, suggested that the result of the ballot would not give a valid reflection of parents' views because schools had already been flooded with pro-Ilea propaganda, paid for by the ratepayers.

The letter also said that where a child had two parents, they would have only one vote so that the result would favour one-parent families.

Finally, the letter suggested that the method of balloting



Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State, Environment, releasing 3,000 balloons at the Albert Dock, Liverpool, yesterday to launch the Merseyside Tourism Board's "Discover Merseyside '88" campaign. Nineteen million visitors went to the board's area last year

## Parkinson defends price rise

The impending 15 per cent rise in electricity prices was justifiable and necessary, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said, when he defended the rise against a charge by Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, that it was a privatization tax burdening the poor.

Mr Prescott said at question time that the imposition of the price increase was, in the judgement of the consumer boards, unjustifiable and represented a tax on the consumer.

That was consistent with the CBI view that it was unsound in business terms and would cost investment in jobs. What group for any agreed with this imposition?

Would Mr Parkinson review his decision and recognize that the price increases were in reality an energy privatization tax burdening the poor at the expense of the better off?

Mr Parkinson: The price rises are totally justifiable and necessary.

After this increase there will have been a fall in electricity prices under this Government in real terms. There was an increase of more than 30 per cent under Labour.

## ELECTRICITY

Mr Barry Jones (Alyn and Deeside, Lab) said that up to 12 power stations were redundant in Britain. What were his plans for those? Some local authorities wished to purchase and develop them.

Mr Parkinson said that there was much interest in buying redundant power stations and redeveloping them so that they met the highest of standards. "We hope the private sector will come along and do something for them."

Dr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that the chairman of the CEBG had forgotten more about the electricity industry than Mr Parkinson.

Mr Parkinson should be more than willing to know, so his comments should be taken seriously.

Would Mr Parkinson respond to the statement by Mr Graham Hadley, the CEBG secretary, supported by the chairman, that separation of the grid from generation would cost the taxpayer up to £1 billion, or 10 per cent of electricity charges, and increase the threat of blackouts?

What made Mr Parkinson think he knew better than the CEBG?

Mr Parkinson said that Dr Reid would find that Mr Hadley no longer maintained that it would cost £1 billion. The figure, which was impossible to understand, had been based on the assumption that the Government would propose the creation of five vertically integrated power boards. They had not.

It was now agreed between the CEBG and his department's technical experts that, though there might be a cost from the proposals, that cost could be substantially more than matched by the savings which would result.

Dr Reid's information was grossly out of date.

Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford, C) said that the introduction of competition would be welcome to those who supplied the CEBG with equipment which, in turn, would enable them to put forward more competitive designs. That would enable them to export to the world.

Mr John Home Robertson (East Lothian, Lab) asked if Mr Parkinson had had any discussions with Lord Marshall, chairman of the CEBG, about the case for improving the transmission system in England

## Minister's speech criticized

# Government 'is cutting curbs on US ownership'

The Government was apparently "begging American capital to buy the British electricity supply industry, removing controls to foreign ownership", Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said during question time.

He was referring to a speech in Miami, Florida, by Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State for Energy.

Mr Prescott asked if Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, could say if his promise to the House about tougher regulations to protect consumers in a privatized electricity industry was consistent with the terms of Mr Spicer's speech "to American capital".

In the speech, Mr Spicer said that the regulatory controls in Britain would be less than those in the United States.

Increased profits, no doubt, would be paid for by consumers.

Mr Parkinson said that Mr Spicer's speech would not be delivered for another hour, but that it would answer conclusively Mr Prescott's points.

"Mr Spicer makes it clear that in the United States it is fully accepted that their regulatory system is so restrictive now that it is inhibiting the development of the electricity supply industry and putting consumers at risk."

"We have said, and Mr Spicer has my total support in this, that, although we are going to have a tough regulatory system,

## POWER

we will not have one so tough and mindless that it puts the customers' interests at risk."

Earlier, he said that the Government expected that the investment in the privatized British electricity industry would overwhelmingly be made by British companies.

He said that this was made clear in Mr Spicer's speech in the United States.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) had said that a proportion of electricity to be generated in this country had by law to be nuclear, thus denying market forces.

Yet the Government was asking American investors, who could not get any nuclear power stations built there because of market forces, to invest here.

What consumer rights were there in that arrangement?

Mr Parkinson replied that the Government had reserved to the distribution companies the option to buy a proportion of their electricity from non-fossil-fuel supplies but had not yet specified where.

He was sure that Mr Benn was referring to the speech by Mr Spicer, who made clear that he expected the investment in the British electricity industry to be made overwhelmingly by British companies.

## Museum costs review

A study of the financial implications of maintaining and managing museum collections has been commissioned by the Government, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, said.

He said that the study, commissioned with the Museums Association, would emphasize the need for effective accountability.

It would look at the opportunities for improved public access to collections and would examine and attempt to quantify display and storage space and other costs.

## Litter show cost £60

The cost of the launch last Tuesday of an anti-litter campaign, when the Prime Minister collected litter in St James's Park, Westminster, was less than £60, Mrs Thatcher said in a written reply.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) had asked what was the cost and the purpose of the exercise.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Tidy Britain Group had launched a series of projects designed to deal more effectively with litter.

## Welsh job

Dr Deirdre Hine has been appointed director of the breast-screening service in Wales. Mr Ian Grist, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said in a written reply.

Screening would start later this year at the Welsh Breast Screening Centre in Cardiff.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; Prime Minister; Housing (Scotland); Land Bill, progress on remaining stages. Motion on membership of committee on television proceedings.

Lords (2.30): Copyright; Designs and Patents Bill, third reading.

## 'Books for the rich' under fire

A premium book subscription service for newly published books from public libraries would mean new books for the rich and old dog-eared books for the poor, Mr Eric Sedgmore (Hackney and Shoreditch, Lab) said at question time.

When this hare-brained scheme had been introduced in New Zealand, 66 per cent of the income had gone in administrative costs. In Kiel, West Germany, the idea had been quickly dropped after loans of children's books dropped by 40 per cent.

Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, said that it was not a case of looking at the objectives of the Green Paper that suggested the subscription service. The objectives were to seek ways of enabling local authorities to raise extra resources in harness with the private sector.

A library authority had drawn up plans for a complementary premium lending service for newly published novels and biographies, but had been advised that it would be in breach of the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964.

He had received letters from the public asking for subscription services. The Green Paper, therefore, suggested that local authorities have powers to set up such services.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman for the Arts, said that the Library Association Record had described the Green Paper as a forest of negatives, patronizing, confused, badly written and weak on logic. Why did Mr Lacey not save himself further embarrassment by withdrawing such ridiculous proposals now?

Mr Lacey said that the Opposition's attitude was regrettable. It contradicted that of the director of Library Association,

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Mr Tony Banks: Theatre-and-carry offer

who had been positive, constructive and helpful, but he did not expect such an attitude from the Opposition.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) invited Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, to see the Liverpool Playhouse production of *The Ragged Dicks*.

Mr Lacey said that he would be pleased to see the play.

ged *Trousered Philanthropist* when it transfers to the Theatre Royal, Stratford, east London. He offered to pay for the tickets and carry afterwards.

Mr Lacey said that was one of the most generous and surprising offers he had ever had. "I will consider it very carefully."

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) asked for any assurance of regular government funding to secure the future of the Playhouse Theatre and the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) asked for an assurance of long-term, adequate funding for the Haymarket Theatre, an ordinary public Bill, as those affected have the right to oppose them in select committees in each House.

If hybridity is proved in any of the present legislation it will stand little chance of reaching the statute book this session.

The idea of such challenges

## Government programme threatened

# 'Hybridity' attack planned

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Labour leaders plan to use a new parliamentary tactic against the Government to try to wreck its heavy legislative programme.

They are scrutinising every detail of the Bills going through Parliament to spot any examples of "hybridity", which could effectively kill them off.

Hybrid measures are public Bills that nevertheless single out a particular private interest for different treatment.

They go through a much longer and more complex procedure than ordinary public Bills, as those affected have the right to oppose them in select committees in each House.

If hybridity is proved in any of the present legislation it will stand little chance of reaching the statute book this session.

The idea of such challenges

arose after a dispute between clerks in the House of Lords and House of Commons on whether the "Peter Pan" amendment to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill was hybrid because it was aimed specifically at allowing royalties to continue to go from J.M. Barrie's work to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

The Commons clerks won the argument on the ground that the hospital is within the National Health Service. If it had been a private hospital, the Bill would have been ruled hybrid.

Labour MPs are now going through the Education Reform Bill line by line to see if they can spot any hybridity.

They believe that they have already found a classic example in a Government amendment to

the Employment Bill. If they win their case it could wreck the Bill, which enacts the latest round of industrial relations laws.

The prime example of hybridity problems was the disputed nationalization measure, the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill in 1976.

Government Bills for large construction projects in a local area, such as the Channel tunnel, are generally declared hybrid and face a long, arduous passage through Parliament.

Other examples were the Port of London Bill of 1903 and 1908, the Bank of England Bill, 1945, and the recent Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Bill.

It is the job of the Public Bill Office to examine each new measure to check that it complies with the rules.

## BNFL bid to store fuel longer

British Nuclear Fuels is running out of time in its plan to reprocess the world's nuclear waste at Sellafield. It is so far behind schedule in building its £1.6 billion thermal oxide reprocessing plant (Thorp), that it has been forced to apply for an extension of the time it is allowed to store fuel.

The delay was disclosed yesterday by Cumbria County Council which says BNFL has told it that Thorp will not be able to process the fuel until 1992.

BNFL's permission to take in and hold the irradiated fuel expires in December 1990. After that, the fuel must be returned to its country of origin within five years if Thorp is not operating.

This week, Mr Windsor Biggs, the county planning officer, will tell the council that BNFL would like the time condition removed or be allowed to hold the fuel in stock until 1995 by which time Thorp should be working. Mr Biggs will recommend that the company be allowed to hold the fuel in its storage pots for the extra five years.

## Union vendetta 'illegal', says Labour

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Labour Party has made a fresh onslaught on the Government's Employment Bill, claiming that it is a direct attack on certain trade union leaders, is illegal.

It aims to prove the Government is pursuing a vendetta against Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers and Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and to have the Bill declared hybrid, effectively blocking its passage through Parliament.

Mr Michael Meacher, the shadow Employment Secretary, said yesterday that the amendment came near to introducing "a hit list" of union leaders such as Mr Scargill and Mr Todd.

## Kinnock launches campaign against poll tax

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, launched a nationwide attack yesterday on the Government's plans to replace domestic rates with the poll tax. He urged Mrs Thatcher to "axe the tax" or the country would suffer.

"The poll tax is unjust, unfair, undemocratic and un-British. It has been discredited by other free countries and it must be rejected by ours," Mr Kinnock said when he signed the "People's Petition" against the poll tax at its launch in London yesterday.

He was joined by Lord Pitt of Hampstead, chairman of Shelter, the housing organization, the Bishop of Woolwich, the Right Rev Peter Hall, Mrs Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Association of London Authorities, and other local government figures.

The petition is also being backed by Mr David Steel, the Conservative MP Sir George Young and Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary.

The tax is due to be introduced in

Scotland next year and in England and Wales in two years' time.

Mr Kinnock said it was "highly unlikely" he would vote for an amendment to the community charge Bill being proposed by Mr Michael Mates, a Conservative MP, which would introduce a banding system for the tax.

Lord Pitt said the tax would hit ethnic minority communities in particular, especially those with large families living in the inner cities.

general secretaries and presidents, notably Arthur Scargill and Ron Todd", Mr Meacher said.

Lord Trefgarne, the government spokesman in the Lords who is in charge of the Bill's passage through the Upper House, said the Government had in mind "a number of people" who were within the scope of the Bill.

Mr Meacher said: "In our view the Government has made very fundamental alterations at the last minute, which change quite dramatically the thrust of the Bill."

## City firms courted by Wales

A £1 million campaign intended to persuade more banks, insurance companies and financial services to set up bases in south-east Wales was launched yesterday by Mr Peter Walker.

The Secretary of State for Wales has joined local authorities and the Welsh Development Agency in a two-year drive to woo more companies away from the City.

A key weapon will be the huge difference in operating costs between London and Wales. Since 1981 more than 15,000 extra jobs have been created in banking, insurance and finance in the region.

In the past few months, Cardiff and Newport have attracted the Chemical Bank, TSB general insurance and the Patent Office.

Mr Stephen White, executive director of the development agency, who will head the campaign, said: "Fundamental changes within the financial services sector are making more institutions question whether they have to base their total operations in London and the South-east."

## Runcie confirms gay clergy view

By Ruth Gledhill

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has reaffirmed his opposition to the ordination of active homosexual clergy to the priesthood in Church of England.

Speaking on BBC-1's *Panorama* last night, Dr Runcie said: "The people who are homosexual by nature, and who seem to have no alternative, would to my mind not be ordained if they committed the homosexual acts which I would judge to be sins, as well as repellant to many people to whom this person would minister."

A homosexual in a stable relationship should only be ordained if the relationship was maintained "without the acts which are condemned in the Bible and in the tradition."

In the programme, which included interviews with churchmen and laymen from across the high and low church spectrum, Dr Runcie answered criticisms by Dr Gareth Bennett in the *Crockford's* preface and stated his views on the ordination of women.

He denied that he was an

"intelligent pragmatist" with the "desire to put off all questions until someone else makes the decision".

He said: "I am not a pragmatist but I do recognize that it takes time and unique patience before you find solutions which are generally acceptable in the life of the Church."

The lead he is attempting to give is a "lead against rigid thinking, a judgemental temper of mind and a disposition to oversimplify very complex problems which is the spirit of Christ."

He believes the ordination of women is something that will eventually come to pass.

"But I want it to happen in a way which will carry the consensus of people and will be built upon some experience of women's ministry."

He also suggested that the Church might have a moral duty to question or oppose government policies on emigration, South Africa and a succession system that rewards success rather than trying to meet urgent social needs.

Mothers sue vaccine for...  
Drilling and...  
Homeless families being threatened...  
Village to take action against...  
High prices for...



Dental research conference

# Mothers support 'risk-free' vaccine for children's teeth

By Thomas Frenkel, Science Correspondent

Mothers would welcome a vaccine against children's tooth decay if they were assured it had no serious side-effects, a conference on dental research was told yesterday.

A vaccine developed in Britain has been shelved by the Department of Health and Social Security because of doubts over its acceptability and usefulness.

However, a survey of 315 mothers of two-schoolchildren in Scotland has shown that up to 78 per cent would consider such a vaccine acceptable if it meant that all tooth decay was avoidable and there were no health risks attached to giving it to their children.

The results of the survey were given to 400 delegates at the conference at Queen's University, Belfast.

The three-day meeting is the first jointly organized by the British Society for Dental Research and the Irish division of the International

Association for Dental Research.

The study showed that a completely safe vaccine would be preferable to mothers than fluoridation of public water supplies, Miss Elizabeth Kay, of the oral medicine, pathology and community medicine departments of Glasgow University.

Two out of three had difficulty in getting a surgery.

the children aged three and four had never been seen by a dentist and 32 per cent of the mothers had refused one of the vaccinations available to their children.

"One of the most disturbing findings is that 36 per cent of the mothers believe that no preventive measures are necessary to protect their children's teeth," Miss Kay said.

The British vaccine against dental decay shelved by the

Department of Health and Social Security was developed by

researchers at the University of Liverpool and the University of London.

It is designed to protect the action of bacteria which cause decay. It would be given to children before they had their first tooth or at the age of two.

The department, which put it into the 12 years of research, withdrew support two years ago because of growing evidence of a decline in tooth decay and worries about how acceptable the vaccine would be to parents.

Professor Newell said at the conference: "I think the results of the survey are encouraging. We believe there is a future for this vaccine although more research still needs to be done."

"Whether it is ever introduced in Britain I don't know but dental caries is an increasing problem in developing countries and there is a lot of foreign interest in this vaccine."

The British vaccine against dental decay shelved by the

# Face of hope amid hunger



Audrey Hepburn, the actress, visiting drought-stricken Ethiopia as ambassador of Unicef, the United Nations children's charity. In London yesterday she appealed for more aid to fight famine. "I saw babies the size of one-year-olds. In fact, they were five-year-olds," she said with emotion. "To save a child is a blessing. To save one million children is a God-given opportunity." The famine was potentially worse than 1985 because even less rain was falling this time. She described her tour as heart-rending. "Drought is recurrent, famine need not be. Famine can be wiped out."

# Drilling and filling 'should be curbed'

By Our Science Correspondent

Britain's dentists were given a government health warning yesterday against unnecessary drilling and filling of teeth, which experts believe can do more harm than good, particularly in children.

The dentists are being urged to abandon some of their most feared treatments and to adopt less interventionist practices aimed at preventing tooth decay and gum disease.

The Department of Health and Social Security said its research had shown that only about half of Britain's 25,000 dentists regularly attend professional meetings to update knowledge.

They are being sent training videos in a campaign launched yesterday in London by Mrs Edwina Currie, Under-Secretary of State for Health.

"The process of dental decay can be arrested in the early stages," she said.

"With a proper programme of oral hygiene the enamel of the teeth can be hardened if left alone and fillings are avoided. Watch and wait before you drill is the motto for dentists in the future. Once a filling has been made each restoration gets larger and larger and the outlook for the tooth becomes increasingly bleak."

Mrs Currie said dental health in Britain had improved considerably in the past 10 years through the use of fluoride in toothpaste and greater public awareness of the need to care for teeth.

The Government was committed to further improvements. If those were to

be achieved "it is vital that dentists keep themselves informed of the latest developments", she said.

Dr Martin Downer, the chief dental officer at the DHSS, said: "The quality of dental practice in Britain is very high but it is difficult for new ideas to filter down."

"Those dentists who qualified some years ago may not be as up-to-date as they could be and there is certainly a knowledge gap that has to be filled."

"There is considerably less tooth decay now, particularly among children. There was real cause for optimism that the drilling and filling of children's teeth might soon become a practice of the past, he added."

# Disabled lose under benefit reforms

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Sick and disabled people stand to lose by up to £18 a week under the new social security reforms, and more than twice as many pensioners will lose as gain through cuts in housing benefit, according to a

survey published today by Citizens' Advice bureaux in Yorkshire.

The survey, based on actual cases, compares the benefits claimants get now with what new claimants would get under the new system. The report shows that for every gainer among sick and dis-

abled claimants, five would lose. Although on average the losses were more than £8 for that group, some people would lose £17 or £18.

A young disabled woman living on her own will end up £9 a week poorer, the report shows. Most families with children will gain under the

new rules, on average £3 for couples and £7 for single parents.

Losers and Gainers: A Comparison of Benefits (National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Yorkshire and Humberside Area Office, County House, Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 7JH).

# Homeless families 'being threatened'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Violence is being employed against families housed in bed and breakfast accommodation by local authorities, according to a study yesterday.

Tower Hamlets Homeless Families Campaign, acting on behalf of families in east London, says that harassment, usually overtly racist, is in response to their complaints against conditions.

The report, *Anti-Racism for the Private Rented Sector*, produced by a group of London housing workers, says that in one hotel a man was threatened by the cleaner, another homeless person, employed by the management.

The threats, including one to kill, arose because the children of the threatened man used the wrong entrance to the hotel and played in a

# Grant for study into brain germ

By Kerry Gill

The Medical Research Council has awarded a grant of more than £50,000 for a three-year research project into the causes of meningitis.

Research is to be carried out under Professor Hugh Pennington, professor of bacteriology and dean of medicine at Aberdeen University, and will use modern genetic techniques to study the variations and relationships between strains of *Neisseria meningitidis*, the bacterium which is the most common cause of the disease among children in Britain.

At present there is no vaccine with which to treat the common form of meningitis in Britain and doctors are still mystified as to how the bacterium apparently travels about the country causing sudden outbreaks. This winter has seen outbreaks in places as far apart as Devon and Ayrshire.

Professor Pennington said it was impossible to predict the behaviour of the organism.

Part of his research will concentrate on improving typing methods to understand how many types of *Neisseria meningitidis* there are. A long-term aim will be to find out why and how meningitis spreads.

"The data we get will be useful if and when a vaccine comes along. There is no vaccine as yet in the strains that cause the disease in this country", he said yesterday.

# Village to take court action against Ridley

A village is to take legal action against Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, because of a decision to allow more than 800 acres of land in a declared area of outstanding natural beauty to be used for military training.

A department inspector who held a four-day public inquiry in 1986 into the Army proposal to take over the land at Stannington, Cambridgeshire, had recommended refusal. How-

ever, the finding was overruled by Mr Ridley.

Four residents are applying jointly with the parish council for a judicial review because they say the scheme would have an adverse impact.

The case, if it goes to court, will be the first of its kind in which the Secretary of State has faced legal action because of a Ministry of Defence application. The residents have launched an appeal to pay for legal costs.

# High prices from Australia

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Sotheby's achieved four world record prices in their bi-centennial sale of Australian paintings in Melbourne at the weekend, but with a gaping 34 per cent unsold.

The first record was for a 1898 portrait by Tudor St George Tucker of a young girl dressed in white like a Whistler painting, and posing against a white wall, which sold for \$A187,000 (£72,762), more than twice its upper estimate.

Another painting of a young girl, this time lying in opulent and colourful surroundings, by Rupert Charles Wulsten Bunny, achieved an Australian record for the artist, although the \$A187,000 price (£72,762) was just over half the world record established in New York last month.

An intriguing piece of social history, depicting gold digging at Mount Alexander, by George French Angas, fetched \$A93,500 (£36,381), \$A20,000 over estimate, another world record.

At the time, the intrepid young artist wrote from the scene to his London publisher, William Hogarth: "I send you two exact water-colour sketches taken on the spot by myself... every tent and store with its flag... and all the figures are sketched from life". It shows men lowering them-

selves down makeshift shafts, carrying loads, and conversing in a barren terrain.

Top price of all was for a painting consigned by Robert Hughes, the art critic and author, *Blue Mountains Landscape circa 1891*, by Sir Arthur Ernest Streeton, this previously unexhibited painting shows a woman descending in the sunlight from her mountain home. Estimated at up to \$A200,000, it sold in the event for \$A275,000 (£107,003) to an unknown buyer.

The first session of Spink's largest coin sale ever brought good returns for that lowly coin, the old English farthing. Many phrases denoting meanness have evolved around the farthing, such as "farthing-faced chit" in Edwardian times, and "farthing-taster" (the smallest measure of ice-cream in Victorian times).

But yesterday, they rewarded their investors well. Out of a total offering of 400 farthings at the sale, a brass example produced during the Cromwellian period fetched

\$880 against an estimate of \$500 to £700.

According to Mr Patrick Finn, of Spink's, a 1901 brass farthing which escaped the blackening process could well have fetched a high price, but he had only one bidder, and so the hammer fell when it reached the reserve of £50.

It was also a disappointing day for sellers of gold coins. A Charles I triple unite from the Oxford mint, which might have fetched \$8,000 to \$9,000 three years ago, sold for only \$4,200.

Phillips set this week's Impressionist sales - the climax of the pre-Easter auction season - in motion yesterday afternoon, with its sale of lesser Impressionist paintings but it turned out to be a fiasco, with over half the lots unsold.

High prices included that of \$63,800 (estimate \$30,000 to \$40,000) for a river scene, "Les Bords de la Marne" by Henri Lebesque, and \$52,800 (estimate \$40,000 to \$50,000) for a gouache street scene entitled "Le Lapin Agile", by Maurice Utrillo.

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TT 29/08/88

# NPI announce the bigger pension.

Actually, it can take less than a day to sort out your pension arrangements.

But if you want to take advantage of one of the best self-employed pensions around, then the days are numbered.

Because from now until the 30th of June, NPI's regular premium Self-Employed Retirement Plans will be 1% bigger.

We'll be adding 1% extra benefits. Every year. For the life of

the policy. So now you can enjoy long-term growth through a secure and balanced investment portfolio and at the same time invest in our with-profit plan which allows you to share in the profitability of NPI.

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over the longer term. Which means that people who have already chosen an NPI Self-Employed Pension could fare substantially better.

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IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS.





The 300TE 188 DIN, 0-62 mph 8.8 seconds, top speed 130 mph

Every estate car is designed to be practical. As a single design objective this is quite easily achieved: all you need is a van with an extra set of windows.

However, the concept of marrying a practical load space with the quality of drive and comfort of a saloon car is a different matter altogether.

After all, should luxury, comfort and style be the sole preserve of saloon cars? Mercedes-Benz don't think so and have more than proved

their point with the T-series. Why shouldn't an estate car driver be in control of a high-powered engine with smooth, responsive performance? Why shouldn't an estate car driver be able to take a corner at speed with confidence or drive long distances without weariness or discomfort? The T-series was purpose designed to provide extra space but not at the expense of those qualities that make a car a Mercedes-Benz.

To be judged a luxury car an estate needs to have a refined engine of two litres or more, power-assisted steering, a quiet interior with low wind and road noise, a smooth, comfortable ride, a stable suspension system for good road-holding and a high cruising speed for effortless long distance travel.

With the 2 litre 200T that is exactly what you get. Not to mention the many other standard features like the separate passenger and driver heating controls, tinted safety glass all round, heated windscreen washer nozzles, and the reason most people decide on an estate in the first place: a large load space that has a multiplicity of space variations with a rear bench seat that divides (one third/two thirds) and a front passenger seat that folds right back.

## Mercedes-Benz present an interesting innovation in estate cars. Sophistication.



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR  
IN THE WORLD.

There are, of course, optional extras you can add yourself. Such as a power-assisted tilt or slide sunroof, cruise-control and a third row of rear-facing

seats which folds down flush with the floor. Should your motoring require an even higher degree of sophistication, the 2.3 litre 230TE and 3 litre 300TE will more than adequately provide it.

The top of the range 300TE has a powerful six cylinder, 188 DIN/hp engine which outperforms most luxury cars in its class. On the test track it can easily achieve 130mph and its 0 to 60 time is less than 9 seconds (manufacturer's figures). It also has automatic four-speed transmission with sport and economy selection, ABS braking and electrically operated windows as standard.

Completing the range is the 2.5 litre 250TD which has a supremely refined five cylinder diesel engine. It also shares a whole range of unique Mercedes-Benz features standard on all T-series models. These include a self-activated electric motor which firmly shuts the tailgate once it is in the 'close' position, the multi-link rear suspension system which incorporates a self-levelling device for sure-footed roadholding irrespective of load, electronic seat-belt tensioners which take up the slack in the front seat-belts on impact and, as you'd expect, energy absorbing front and rear crumple zones, with the rigid passenger safety cell which Mercedes-Benz invented.

All in all, four superb estate cars with an intricate variety of options and every conceivable comfort you'd expect from a luxury car. Proving that with a Mercedes-Benz estate you don't go without sophistication, you get it all with room to spare.

Arms deal glo  
ahead of sum  
BEC  
influx  
Shots at emb  
Strike  
Portu  
Victorian solu  
offered to Fi  
Israel brace



WORLD ROUNDUP

## Arms deal gloom ahead of summit

A further night of gloom about the chances of an agreement on American and Soviet strategic nuclear missiles by 50 per cent being made for signature at President Reagan's Moscow summit meeting with Mr Gorbachev, emerged yesterday (Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

Mr Viktor Karpov, head of the Soviet Arms Control and Disarmament Directorate, told Mr David Miller, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, "We have to be realistic about the timing."

There is a growing feeling that the start agreement may be reached before the summit but the President's departure from office in January is still a factor in the timing of the summit.

Mr Karpov came to London from Washington, where he attended a summit preparatory meeting.

## Vanunu EEC fears influx

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Common Market's technical committee has decided to appeal to the European Court of Justice, yesterday, against an 18-year prison sentence for treason and espionage, said the Agency for the Press.

A justice ministry spokesman said no appeal had yet been received "but it could take up to 10 hours to go through the right channels". Vanunu's lawyer, Mr Avigdor Feldman, was not available for comment.

Vanunu told *The Sunday Times* in September 1986 that Israel had produced up to 200 atomic bombs.

EMIS meets 1992, page 12

## Shots at embassy

Vietnam — Shots were fired at a group of around 70 Kurdish demonstrators protesting in front of the Iraqi Embassy yesterday (John Holland writes).

The demonstrators tried to send representatives to see Iraqi officials but they were thrown out. Six shots were then fired by an Iraqi security employee. No one was hit.

## Airbus for Strike hits France

Paris — With the pomp and ceremony befitting a success that is firstly French and then European, as M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister put it, Air France yesterday took delivery of the first Airbus A320 from the Aéropostale factory in Toulouse (Susan MacDonald writes).

Lisbon — Much of Portugal was paralysed yesterday by a general strike called by the country's two main unions to protest against the labour-law package proposed by the Government (Martha de la Cal writes). Nearly all transport was stopped. Domestic flights were cancelled and only a few international planes took off.

## Victorian solution offered to Fiji

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

One of Queen Victoria's less-known titles, "Tui Viti", or Supreme Chief of Fiji, is being dusted off with a view to fresh service.

It will be used in a form of diplomatic barter today at talks between the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Prime Minister of Fiji.

Mrs Thatcher is expected to hint to Ratu Mara that she would be prepared to recommend the Queen to accept the title of Tui Viti.

But there is a condition: the new constitution which the islands are preparing should be "acceptable". Stripped of its diplomatic code, that means that Fiji's Melanesian minority must restore the democratic rights of the Indian majority.

Ratu Mara has come to London to ask that his country's links with the Crown be restored. They were severed last November when Fiji became a republic after two military coups. Buckingham Palace announced during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Vancouver that the Queen had ceased to be Queen of Fiji. At the same time, the Heads of Government announced that Fiji's membership had lapsed.

It was the Fijians who first came up with the idea of reviving the Tui Viti title. They argued that the 1874 Deed of Cession, under which Queen Victoria accepted the title, was still valid.

The initial reaction in Whitehall was that even if the title had passed to the present Queen — which was doubtful — it must have lapsed when she stepped down as Queen of Fiji. But now Foreign Office lawyers have read the document, and reported that it could be argued both ways. In short, Britain could choose to decide that the Fijian interpretation was right if it wished.

If Suva had suggested this before November, it would have been up to the Queen to decide, in consultation with Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, then Governor-General.

But the loss of her title as Queen of Fiji meant that the right to recommend whether she should accept the Tui Viti title passed to Mrs Thatcher.

Whitehall sources made it clear yesterday that the Prime Minister would like to say "yes", but it would be politically impossible without a satisfactory Fijian constitution. If the islands were to accept a constitution adequate for the Queen, they would also stand a good chance of being re-admitted to the Commonwealth. But that is seen as a long-term prospect, and Ratu Mara has not asked to see Mr Shridath Ramphal, the organization's Secretary-General.

Ratu Mara's willingness to deliver such a constitution is open to question. One of the effects of the two coups was to restore him after a lapse of six months to the position he lost at the polls last April, when the Indian-dominated majority took power.

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# Peking Parliament embraces glasnost

From A Correspondent, Peking

Delegates to the Chinese Parliament yesterday staged an extraordinary show of openness here by criticizing the Communist Party hierarchy for its failure to heed their views.

In the Great Hall of the People, where nearly 3,000 members of the annual National People's Congress had gathered for the morning session, delegates exercised in public their right to challenge a proposed motion.

The country's nominal legislature, for long a rubber-stamp assembly, was expected to approve a series of resolutions. The Congress has won a measure of real power in recent years but has rarely opposed plans put up by the party leadership.

The display of opposition, which was clearly expected and sanctioned by the leadership, followed calls by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the party chief, for freer debate and greater openness in the Government's activities, working as he seeks support for advancing economic and political reform.

The debate began when Mr Peng Chong, the executive chairman of the NPC presidium, called for a vote on establishing seven special committees to deal with government affairs between annual parliamentary meetings. Microphones were provided right through the enormous hall. Several delegates attacked the Government for its failure to consider some of their suggestions. One quoted a newspaper statement that Communist leaders were selected through "backstairs" with relevant departments, and claimed he was not involved nor consulted.

Another challenged a decision to elect an 89-year-old scientist to head the education, science, culture and public health committee. The speaker bluntly declared that "the man is too old". He added that "we should have more opportunities for the younger generation to display their talents" and applause burst across the auditorium.

During a show of hands to vote on

the lists of committee members, several Noses, and at least one abstention, were registered for each. The most controversial motion, the passage of the education committee, brought eight votes against and a stunning 69 abstentions. In the past, the committees have been composed of appointees chosen under party auspices.

The official Xinhua news agency took note of the voting and what it called the expression of "different views", indicating that the debate was being officially tolerated as a show of openness. "For the first time in the NPC's history, not a single one of the NPC's seven committees was elected unanimously," it said.

One deputy, Mr Wu Chan, aged 83, clambered on the leaders' dais to announce his withdrawal as a candidate for the overseas Chinese committee because of old age.

Such moves coincide with a drive spearheaded by Mr Deng Xiaoping, aged 83, the senior leadership figure, to rejuvenate the Government's ranks, though the effort has met with

considerable resistance. Last week Mr Zhao issued a call for greater debate and *glasnost* in governing the country, signalling an acknowledgement of the leadership's difficulties in gauging public sentiment.

The delegates also heard Mr Song Ping, a state councillor, announce a sweeping reorganization that will streamline the central Government's fossilized structure, slash its involvement in day-to-day affairs, and remove 10,000 employees from its bloated bureaucracy.

Under the plan, the State Council, the equivalent of a Cabinet, will eliminate 14 government departments or shift their duties to 10 new ministries to simplify operations. Mr Song said: "We will not simply abolish some offices, merge others and cut back staff, but introduce changes to their functions."

The proposal is part of a general trend towards more autonomy for local managers in Peking's swing away from direct central control. The past need for numerous departments to oversee all aspects of the

administration and the economy is diminishing as the Government reduces its responsibilities.

The changes were necessary because China's reforms were falling victim to government inefficiency, rigid management and an overlapping system of various departments, Mr Song said.

Among the main changes proposed is the creation of a new State Planning Commission, combining the existing State Economic Commission and the Planning Commission, which would oversee the national economy while moving away from direct management of state industries.

The establishment of a Ministry of Materials, whose task would be to supervise distribution of raw materials, is intended to end the nationwide hoarding which is severely hampering industrial output. Under the current set-up, each ministry is able to stockpile materials over which it exercises control, thereby exacerbating an already irrational system of supply and demand.

## Democrats in chaos as Jackson savours win

From Charles Bremner, Hartford, Connecticut

The Democratic voters of Connecticut add their two cents' worth to the chaotic presidential primary race today as anguished party elders wrestle with the spectre of a national victory by Mr Jesse Jackson and the candidates gear up for a battle royal in neighbouring New York State.

As many in the party once again looked to Mr Mario Cuomo, the Governor of New York, yesterday, Mr Richard Gephardt, the man who won the first contest an age ago in Iowa, announced that he was dropping out of the race.

In contrast to the Democrats' confusion, Republicans in Connecticut were expected to hand Mr George Bush his crowning victory after Senator Robert Dole all but abandoned his campaign in this prosperous and heavily Republican state where the Vice-President spent his youth.

For Mr Michael Dukakis, the former "inevitable" Democratic front-runner, a victory in Connecticut — a New England state neighbouring his own Massachusetts — will be a slight consolation. He was

in a state of nine million people. But however small, the numbers put the two men neck-and-neck, with about 600 delegates each for the national convention.

The prospect of the Democratic Party finding a black left-wing preacher as its front-runner has sent tremors through the leadership over the past three days.

When Mr Dukakis seemed to be the man, Mr Paul Kirk, the party chairman, was saying that the Democrats should join to throw their weight behind the man with the momentum. Yesterday, reports could hardly drag on of Mr Kirk's grudging "I doubt it" when he was asked if the party could deny the nomination to Mr Jackson if he arrived at the July convention with the most delegates.

The quandary for the party is simple. Most leaders are convinced — and their belief is born out by opinion polls — that America will not elect a black president.

"Down one path we have to turn our backs on everything this party has purported to stand for," said one widely-quoted party official. "Down the other, we face certain disaster in the fall."

With the party still searching for a leader, eyes were turning yesterday to Mr Cuomo. As one of the Democrats' most respected figures, his support for a candidate could be decisive. His reluctance so far to endorse Mr Dukakis — like him, an immigrant's son and north-eastern governor in the party mainstream — has hurt the Massachusetts Democrat.

New York, the nation's second most populated state, votes on April 19 after the smaller Wisconsin primary next Tuesday. The New York primary is now being treated as pivotal in the fortunes of the front-running candidates.

Mr Cuomo said yesterday that he was delaying his decision on whether to endorse a candidate in the primary. But Mr Cuomo's only praise was for Mr Jackson.

"There's something exciting about the idea that someone who has no money, someone who is a tremendous underdog, can defy the odds and win. You can't argue with his message and I might, but the point here is that people want ideas, specific ideas that they understand."

The pundits say that any further upset by Mr Jackson could bring more pressure for Mr Cuomo to be drafted as a "white knight".

## Bread of charity for Panama children



Panamanian children wait outside a church in San Miguelito for food distributed by Caritas, the Catholic welfare agency. More than 6,000 families are being fed by the relief organization while the country is racked by a week-old general strike.

## US hint of Noriega extradition

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration is hoping that General Manuel Noriega will be ousted within days and thinks it will be the Panamanian Military Guard that deposes him. But a senior official hinted that the US might try to extradite him.

Mr Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, said at the weekend that "the whole populace" had turned against General Noriega, who has been indicted in the United States on drug-running and racketeering charges.

He is "clinging at this point by his fingertips," Mr Abrams said. "Ultimately, I think it's going to have to be the Guard itself that gets rid of him."

Asked about a forced extradition, Mr Abrams was

quoted as saying: "I don't want to rule anything out because I want Noriega to have some sleepless nights."

President Reagan has dismissed the willingness of the Dominican Republic to give General Noriega asylum, saying: "That's not far enough."

Mr Abrams said that he favoured Spain's offer of asylum "because it's far away."

Asked if there were any circumstances that would prompt the United States to remove General Noriega, Mr Abrams said: "We have the right to arrest General Noriega because he is under two federal drug-trafficking indictments, but I just don't want to speculate on that."

The Senate voted 92-0 on Friday to urge the Administration

to exert new diplomatic, political and economic pressure to force General Noriega to leave Panama.

Mr Abrams referred to the ousted leaders of the Philippines and Haiti, and said that the Administration's experiences with Mr Ferdinand Marcos and Mr Jean-Claude Duvalier had led it to believe that economic pressure would work. But he warned that it was easier to remove civilian dictators than military ones.

Administration sources said General Noriega had agreed to send a representative to a meeting with Latin leaders in Costa Rica, apparently to discuss proposals for his departure from Panama.

They said that the meeting

was called by President Arias of Costa Rica, and the talks would include a representative of the Spanish Government, which has offered General Noriega safe haven.

● CARACAS: A Panamanian military rebel yesterday called for the opposition parties to unite in a "national reconciliation front" because time was running out for a bloodless resolution of Panama's crisis (AP reports).

"A bloodbath is nearing and all those wanting a non-violent end of the crisis should act," Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, said.

The former Panamanian National Guard Chief of Staff's denunciations of General Noriega last June helped trigger the crisis.

## Kremlin discovers the opinion poll

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday announced the setting up of the country's first nationwide centre "for the study of public opinion", which will have branches in 25 Soviet cities. The move is seen as part of its desire to take more account of the wishes of citizens.

Until Mr Mikhail Gorbachev became Communist Party leader in 1985, public opinion surveys were hardly practised inside the Soviet Union, and it remains an embryonic science, which frequently raises suspicion in those being questioned.

The head of the new centre is to be Miss Tatiana Zaslavskaya, the best-known

Soviet sociologist and a maverick economic thinker. She caused a sensation in 1983 when a secret report, in which she advocated sweeping economic reform in the Soviet Union, found its way into the pages of the Western press.

In her new post, Miss Zaslavskaya, aged 60, will have a staff of 180 sociologists, computer programmers and journalists, plus a network of interviewers which will be created at the centre's branches in each of the republics. The first poll will concern the process by which management is now being elected by the work-force at industrial enterprises. "It is planned to

take 18 to 20 public opinion polls annually, to promptly study public opinion in separate parts of the country, and to regularly conduct group studies," Tass reported.

The growing respectability of the opinion poll in Soviet life was signalled last November when French media organizations were permitted to co-operate in what was claimed as the first joint poll on public opinion in Moscow.

It was a range of often controversial issues, including the war in Afghanistan.

Miss Zaslavskaya, one of the influential group of radical academics from the Siberian city of Novosibirsk who are

favoured by Mr Gorbachev, explained: "The population will be kept informed about the results of these studies, which will promote the socio-political activity of people indispensable for the success of perestroika (restructuring). In the future, it is planned to create other specialist centres for the study of public opinion."

Western sources claimed that the establishment of the new centre was another astute move by Mr Gorbachev to appeal over the heads of his bureaucratic opponents to the Soviet people for support for his economic reform programme.

## Israel braced for unrest as Arabs strike

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel was bracing itself yesterday for a day of intensified unrest tomorrow when the country's 700,000 Arab citizens plan a general strike and rallies to mark Land Day.

Land Day is commemorated on March 30 each year, the anniversary of the 1976 killing by Israeli policemen of several Arab villagers during an expropriation process in Galilee.

In most years Land Day has passed relatively quietly but many Israeli Arabs, particularly the young, have been displaying a growing sense of solidarity with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories over the past three and a half months, and there is widespread apprehension that tomorrow may be different.

The Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, went out of his way yesterday to warn Israeli Arabs to show re-

straint, saying: "Any trial of strength between them and us will be like that between a fly and an elephant."

The Police Minister, Mr Chaim Bar-Lev, also said that no infringement of the law would be tolerated. He said on Israeli Radio that any attempt to disrupt movement along public roads or to display flags other than that of the State of Israel "would meet with prompt action."

The country's 4,000-strong police force has been put on full alert. All leave has been cancelled and police will be deployed throughout Arab populated areas. Two Army helicopters are to be placed at the disposal of the police to fly units into trouble spots.

Mr Bar-Lev said the police would honour an agreement reached with Arab leaders not to enter villages or towns unless there was an actual

breakdown of public order or conditions of licensed demonstrations were infringed.

Steps have been taken during the past 10 days to keep Land Day protests to a minimum. Several potential riot leaders have been detained, and the newspaper of the Israeli Communist Party — which is influential among Israeli Arabs and has been playing a big role in organizing the planned protest — has been closed down for a week.

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In the Knesset yesterday, recalled from its spring recess, Mr Shamir delivered a

toughly-worded policy statement reiterating Israel's determination to put down the uprising in the occupied territories. He also repeated his opposition to several elements in the peace package put together by the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

Mr Shamir bitterly attacked Mr Shultz's meeting with two prominent American Palestinians over the weekend. Professor Edward Said and Professor Ibrahim Abu Lughod. He noted that both men were members of the Palestine National Council, which Israel views as an integral part of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and are not therefore acceptable as negotiation partners in line with an understanding between Israel and the US.

Mr Shultz is due in Israel on Sunday, when he is expected to demand an unequivocal reply to his peace proposals.

## Serbs' fast food champion faces challenge from US

From Richard Bassett, Belgrade

7.30 am is an early hour for the Balkans, but the queue in front of Jovanovic's has already formed. Until the small kiosk selling the best grilled *plešavica*, a Serbian hamburger, closes 12 hours later, hundreds will be lining up for Yugoslavia's own brand of fast food.

There are more than 800 such kiosks in Belgrade but on opinion, passionate on this as on so many things in Serbia, is unanimous that Jovanovic's grills the best.

When the Belgrade tax authorities attempted to levy a luxury tax on Mr Jovanovic's kiosk, his decision to close in protest for six months brought demonstrations to the Serbian Parliament.

But the opening this week of Yugoslavia's first McDonald's hamburger bar in Belgrade is seen by some as a more subtle

attempt to outflank Mr Jovanovic.

At first glance, McDonald's opening in Belgrade is comparable to a British attempt to export tea to China. For centuries, grilled meat in various shapes and sizes has been the staple diet of Yugoslavs.

Its simple ingredients and rapid preparation have assisted many generations of partisans engaged in guerrilla warfare, the ideal environment, sociologists say, for the consumption of fast food.

Every Serb, from the descendants of Prince Montenegro to the humblest boot-black at the Hotel Balkan, knows about Mr Jovanovic's *plešavica*.

The Belgrade McDonald's, situated in a vast Stalinist marble palace, is a far cry from Mr Jovanovic's small kiosk, where there is barely

room for him, "big Bob" his partner, and two white-coated blondes whose job it is to fashion the meat by hand.

Despite McDonald's lavishness, Mr Jovanovic is sceptical that it will tempt Serbs away from their traditional form of hamburgers — *Car* product is natural, hand-made and large. Serbs want meat not plastic," Mr Jovanovic said, crossing himself while uttering oaths at the thought of a McDonald's chain in Yugoslavia.

Mr Jovanovic says that, despite offers from Japanese and Italian businessmen to open chains in Tokyo and Milan, he is content with just one little kiosk.

Pointing to an interminable line of Serbs of all ages munching *plešavica* as they hurried to work, Mr Jovanovic was visibly both moved and proud.



*When you've had a few and you're miles from home,  
it's not your brain that does the thinking.*

**T**hese words were spoken by Robert.  
Four years ago he was diagnosed as  
HIV positive. (HIV is the virus which  
causes AIDS.)

He has never had a homosexual experience, nor  
has he ever injected drugs.

He is 42 years old, and until recently he was  
an executive with a large multinational  
company.

To protect him, his name and some of the  
details have been changed, but in all other  
respects the story is true.

"You could say I'm part of the generation that  
thinks it invented sex.

I'd always taken it for granted that easy sex  
was my birthright, and during 20 years of  
working life I had plenty of chances, because  
travel was a large part of my job, mainly in  
Europe.

I'm not saying that all businessmen when  
they travel behave like I used to.

But enough of them do, and enough of them  
are going to screw up their lives if they carry on.

#### TEMPTATIONS.

When you're on your own abroad and you've  
just finished a tough day, you feel you deserve  
something more exciting than bed with a good  
book.

Drinks, dinner and drinks might kill three  
hours, but by then it's still only 10 or 11 o'clock  
and a lonely bed beckons.

When I was in that situation, and loosened up  
by the booze I'd be looking for a girl to chat up.

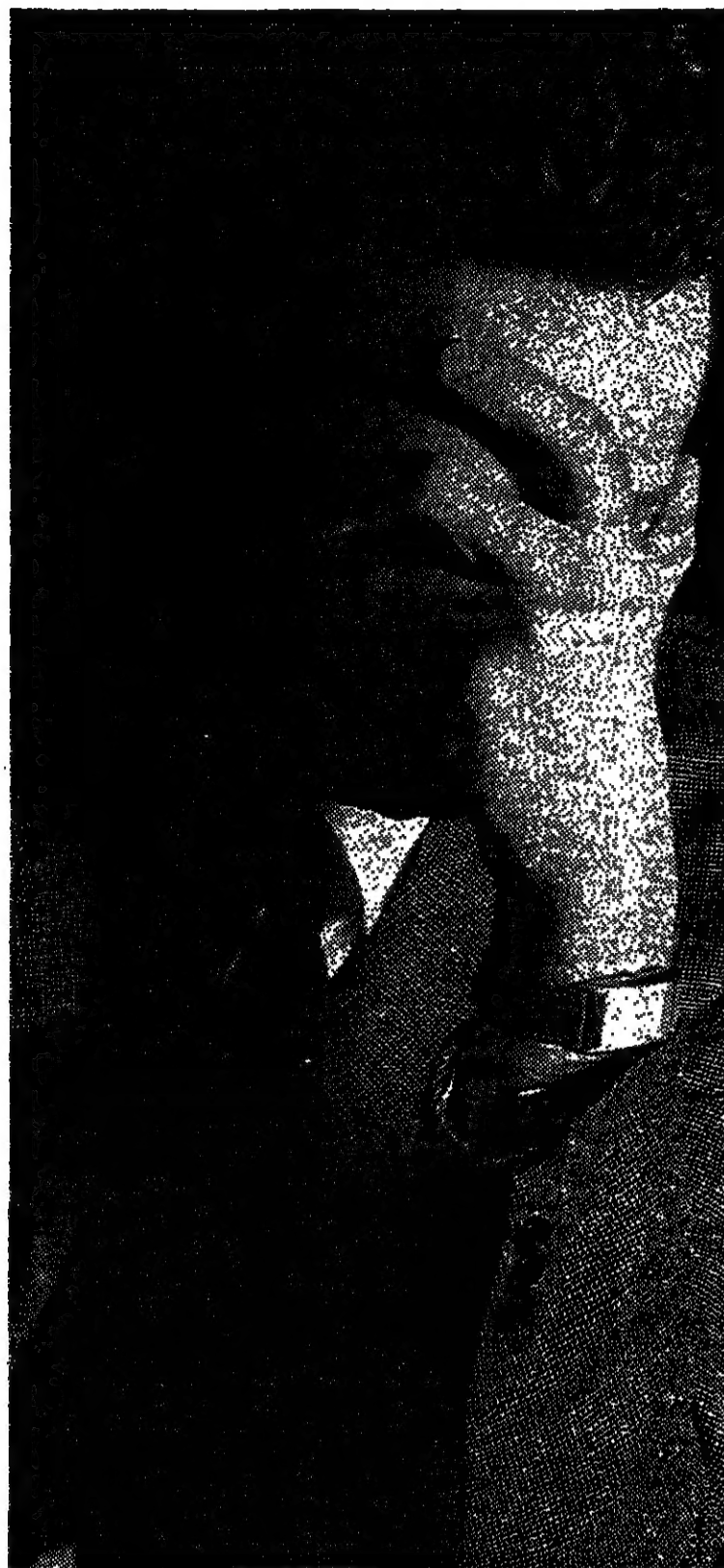
But if that didn't work, I'd be quite happy to  
pay for it.

If I was with a crowd of colleagues, and the  
drink had done its work, we'd end up egging each  
other on.

Someone would say half-jokingly, 'Let's have  
a look at the red-light district,' so we'd all lurch  
off down there.

Many of the people I was with, of course,  
would never dream of behaving like that at  
home.

At other times I'd be visiting client  
companies and I'd go out in the evening with  
them and their wives.



Often, a companion would be provided for  
me at dinner. Sometimes she'd be a secretary or  
P.A. with the firm, sometimes not.

Most of this, of course, was before the age  
of AIDS. I never wore a condom, because at  
that time people just didn't.

In any case, the biggest danger casual sex  
seemed to hold then was a dose of clap (which  
I never got).

If I could have that time of my life all over  
again, I'd think at least twice before having  
casual sex.

And if I ever did get tempted, I'd always use  
a condom.

If anyone thinks they'll find this difficult,  
they should keep reading.

#### CONSEQUENCES.

In 1980 I was very ill for six weeks.

After that, there was no more trouble until  
several years later.

I became ill again. I wasn't getting any better  
and nobody knew what was wrong.

I was living abroad at the time, and I went  
back to London for a blood test.

When they told me I was HIV positive, I went  
absolutely numb. I don't know how I got home.  
I wasn't really conscious.

It was like being told I was going to die, and  
that knowledge almost destroyed me completely.

I locked myself away.

I rejected other people, I could never have  
coped with them rejecting me, so I simply made  
their minds up for them.

I haven't told my parents because of the hurt  
that it will give them.

But from this time, there is one moment that  
haunts me above all others.

I was walking past a café one evening and  
at a table by a window I saw a boy and a girl of  
about 17 kissing and cuddling.

I burst into tears at the horror and misery of  
seeing what I felt I'd lost forever.

When it comes down to it, it isn't difficult  
to die.

What's difficult is living with a death  
sentence over you and knowing that you've lost  
so many things that make life worth living.

So, before you put yourself at risk of being  
infected, ask yourself one thing. Are you strong  
enough to cope with what I've been through?"

#### AVOIDING AIDS.

Eventually, with help, Robert learned to  
build a new life and start living again. He has not  
yet developed the full disease.

But since he became infected, the risk of  
AIDS has substantially increased, both in this  
country and abroad.

Unprotected sex with just one person with  
the virus can be enough to infect you, and you  
can't tell who has it by looking at them.

(Even if you ask them, they might not even  
know themselves.)

And the more partners you have, the more  
chance you'll come into contact with someone  
who has it.

If you have sex with a new partner, make sure  
it's your brain (and nothing else) that does the  
thinking.

Always use a condom.

Your life could depend on it.



**AIDS. YOU KNOW THE RISKS. THE DECISION IS YOURS.**

Bonn says  
network  
in big police  
Singapore's lon  
voice of dissen  
awaits some all



## Bonn says KGB spy network broken in big police swoop

From John England, Bonn

A huge search-and-arrest operation by police and security men has made a "vast breach" in the KGB's spy network in West Germany, Dr Kurt Rebmann, the federal public prosecutor, said in Karlsruhe yesterday.

But he claimed that one of six alleged agents now in custody, an Austrian-born West German businessman named Herr Helmut Kolasch, aged 44, had passed secret documents on the Tornado and planned Jaeger 90 fighter aircraft to the KGB.

A federal criminal bureau specialist who searched Herr Kolasch's home for 13 hours had found message-coding papers hidden in a record cover and he was suspected of having spied for Moscow for money since 1971, Dr Rebmann said.

Another suspect, Herr Fayardo Amaya, aged 34, who was born in Colombia, was believed to have had links with an "Eastern" secret service while studying in East Germany in 1974-1975, and to have been a KGB agent since moving to West Germany in 1981.

The four other men under arrest, two engineers and two

teachers, were all born in the Soviet Union.

The big spy sweep, carried out last week by Dr Rebmann's office, the counter-intelligence service, the federal criminal bureau, and the state criminal bureau of Baden-Württemberg and of North Rhine-Westphalia, involved nearly 170 police and security agents.

In two days they searched 33 homes and offices and detained 10 people, four of whom were later released.

The action came less than a week after the arrest of Frau Elke Falk, aged 43 and single, who was a secretary in the Ministry for Economic Cooperation, who is suspected of spying for the KGB for 10 years.

Like many other lonely government secretaries in Bonn in the past, it is alleged she was recruited by an Eastern "Romeo" and spied for love.

However, Dr Rebmann claimed that the operation was not based on information supplied by her. It was due alone to "research" by the counter-intelligence service.

The arrests are seen as a great success for the service, which was dealt a severe blow in August, 1985, when Herr Hans Joachim Tiedge, the head of its department dealing with East German espionage, defected to East Berlin.

The president of the service, Herr Gerhard Böden, said it was forced to develop new methods of spy detection "which have now proved successful". He also said Eastern secret services as a whole had become more active.

Dr Rebmann said many of the suspects were emigrants from the Soviet Union, and in future such people would be given stricter security checks. That would also apply to emigrants from other Warsaw Pact countries.

Seven escapees: Seven East Germans crossed to the West at the weekend, West German border police said yesterday (Reuters reports). They said two young East Germans managed to cross the heavily fortified East German frontier to reach the West without being fired on by border troops. Four more East Germans crossed between Czechoslovakia and Bavaria and a 19-year-old escaped near Fulda in the central state of Hesse.

## Making music is child's play in Japan



Young cellists playing a classical French ballad during the 1988 Suzuki Method National Concert in Tokyo's Budokan Hall yesterday. More than 200 children from throughout Japan showed off their musical talents at the concert.

## Shooting rampage ends with suicide

Prague (AP) — Five people were shot dead by a young man who committed suicide and confessed to the crimes in a farewell letter.

A man was murdered in his home 25 miles east of Prague. Police then raided the nearby home of a 21-year-old and found the bodies of a woman, her two teenage daughters and her mother.

## Chirac denial

Paris (Reuters) — The Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, denied that the release of Mr Mohamed Moubajir, linked to bombings in Paris, was part of efforts to free French hostages in Lebanon.

## Computer ban

Taipei (Reuters) — The US has asked Taiwan to ban some computer exports to Eastern Europe, fearing they could be used for military purposes.

## Cyclone relief

Wellington (AP) — The New Zealand Government is giving £1.5 million to help victims of Cyclone Bola.

## Rebel battle

Bangkok (AFP) — About 200 Burmese troops have been killed or wounded in an offensive against rebels.

## Singapore's lone voice of dissent awaits some allies

By Gavin Bell

Mr Chiam See Tong cuts a lonely figure on the red leather benches of Singapore's neat, white colonial-style Parliament. Surrounded by members of the ruling People's Action Party, Mr Chiam has the unenviable task of being the only opposition MP in the 79-seat House.

As a seed of dissent in the forest of People's Action power, the bespectacled lawyer is frequently subjected to concerted contempt and ridicule.

During a debate on the state-run television service this week, Mr Chiam ventured to suggest that a commercial station would be a good idea. Under the present set-up, he said, too much news was devoted to ruling party activities.

Dr Yeo Ning Hong, the Minister for Communications and Information, replied that it was natural for government leaders to be highlighted because they were the nation's policy-makers. He then reminded Mr Chiam: "You do not, in any way whatsoever, decide on the policies of this country. You may make alternative proposals, but so far none of them has made any sense."

The incident at once reflected the supremacy of the ruling party and the impotence of those who have the temerity to oppose it.



Mr Lee Kuan Yew: Resolved to brook no opposition.

The absence of an effective opposition in Singapore is attributed variously to its economic and social progress under Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, his resolve to brook no dissent and a climate of fear which his indomitable rule engenders.

Mr Chiam had an ally until two years ago in Mr J. B. Jeyaretnam, the leader of the Workers' Party, who had broken the mould of Singaporean politics by winning a by-election in 1981. An outspoken critic of the Government, Mr Jeyaretnam paid the penalty when he was convicted of falsifying his party's accounts, fined, jailed for a month and banned from politics for five years.

His departure left Mr Chiam with a procedural difficulty, since he cannot move a motion unless the ruling party agrees to second it.

"I cannot operate effectively as an opposition," Mr Chiam admitted to *The Times*. "One man cannot cover all the issues. Essentially my role is to show Singaporeans that under this system it

is possible to criticize the Government and still keep your seat."

Mr Chiam, who read law at London's Inner Temple, is acutely aware of how far he can go in opposing People's Action Party policies. "Mr Jeyaretnam liked to come on strong, but I do not think it is a good idea for the opposition to come out with two guns blazing. If I go around making rash statements and get kicked out, I would be doing a disservice to the opposition and to all Singaporeans."

Mr Chiam says he has no firm evidence of improper government coercion against supporters of his Singapore Democratic Party, but that there is a widespread fear of losing jobs or being detained without trial under the Internal Security Act.

"More university graduates are showing interest in the opposition, but it is one thing to give a party moral support and quite another to come out in the open and stand for Parliament. There is this fear that if you oppose the Government openly, it will nab you under the Internal Security Act."

Disturbing evidence of surveillance was presented to *The Times* after a luncheon with Mr Chiam. On leaving the restaurant, I was followed by a person evidently belonging to a security agency.

By back-tracking while crossing a street, I compelled him to hide behind a pillar on the other side. When I confronted him and presented my card, I was given a flustered explanation that he had been "waiting for a friend" — this after trailing me halfway across the city.

An official at the Information Ministry was amused, but evidently not surprised, by the incident.

A local businessman explained the political climate: "Among the lower-income groups the feeling is 'don't bite the hand that feeds you', and among the better-educated it is 'why stick your head above the parapet? There is no limit to how grubby they will be to get you, and they will.' The result, according to a foreign resident, is like living in a strict sixth-form college."

Despite Mr Lee's evident intolerance of dissent, critical voices are occasionally raised. Mr Devan Nair, the former President who resigned in 1985, spoke later of growing discontent. "It is not without significance that public discontent and disenchantment seem to have grown in direct proportion to what are seen as attempts to acquire monopoly control over the formation of public opinion," he said.

Disaffection with the People's Action Party was reflected in the 1984 general election, which saw its share of the vote drop to 62.9 per cent from 75.5 per cent in 1980.

With elections expected this year, the Government is proposing to change the ground rules by requiring up to half of the candidates stand in groups of three, one of whom must be a Malay or a member of another minority community.

Alone in the bastion of People's Action power, Mr Chiam remains hopeful that he will have some allies soon.

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# Manila takes hard line on future of American bases

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

The Philippines yesterday paved the way for tough talks with the United States next week on the future of the American military bases on its soil, saying that the issue divided the people, that other non-communist Asian countries should share the responsibility for regional security, and that Washington paid too little for using the facilities.

Mr Raul Manglapus, the Foreign Secretary, declared in a key policy speech that "the powerful shadow of America remains cast over our land", recalling the Philippines' 50 years as a US colony.

He added that his country was exposed to American global defence strategy — which in the cases of the Clark air base and Subic naval base north of Manila took care of US security from Africa to the Pacific. Mr Manglapus said: "We are alone, left alone to deal with a divisive issue, whose polarizing impact impairs our drive to stabilize our renewed democracy. The dimensions and perils of this polarization have not yet been properly understood by our friends."

His outspoken stand is bound to concern US officials. But he still left open many avenues for compromise.

Mr Manglapus said that the Philippine side would negotiate in the national interest, but he made it unclear whether it would be preferable to squeeze more money out of Washington or to end the polarization among the people, which the bases created,

by getting rid of them. He criticized Manila's non-communist neighbours, saying that they had quietly told the US of their appreciation for its military presence in the Philippines, but offered no help.

Mr Manglapus presented a powerful argument, citing Europe, where he said that a parliamentary majority government would not last one day "if it had to admit to its constituents that it alone, and no other European country or ally, was to host the American bases for the protection of Europe and the United States".

Money was another key factor. Mr Manglapus said

New York (AP) — Twenty-six journalists were killed in the line of duty in 1987, 11 of them in the Philippines, according to a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists, a non-profit organization founded in 1981 by American journalists. Fifty-nine were assaulted and more than 185 arrested or kidnapped.

that Israel and Egypt, with no bases, got massive US aid. Israel received \$3,621 million (£1,972 million) in 1986, and Egypt received \$2,539 million. Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Spain received almost \$1,300 million in aid for its bases, while the Philippines, at \$180 million a year, was given only a fraction of that.

Mr Manglapus said that the value of the bases in Europe was limited compared with the installations in the Philippines. The Clark and Subic bases "cover the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, an area which includes Australia, South and South-East Asia, the Middle East, the

east coast of Africa, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and China. They are the largest American military bases outside the United States."

Diplomats here voiced surprise at the tough public stand shown by Mr Manglapus over the negotiations — which is far removed from the more low-key approach of Mr Fidel Ramos, the Defence Minister — and observers are asking how much is rhetoric and how much is genuine.

Mr Manglapus even said that studies were under way to convert the military facilities to civilian use, and that talks could raise the anti-nuclear provision in the Philippine

Constitution, which if implemented to the full would make it impossible for the US to operate from here. Observers think that the bases will stay, but Washington will find next week's talks far tougher than expected.

There were further reminders yesterday of the inherent internal instability and violence in the Philippines to which Mr Manglapus alluded.

Suspected communist guerrillas killed seven people and badly wounded Mr Prospero Oreta, the mayor of a Manila suburb, in what the military said was one of the insurgents' boldest attacks in the capital for many years. Later in the

day, the brother of a left-wing politician was shot dead, and police said that the act might have been carried out by right-wing gunmen in retaliation for the morning's ambush.

The killings came after a period of quiet on Manila's violent streets, and on the eve of the 19th anniversary of the founding of the communist New People's Army.

Witnesses said that Mr Oreta, who is mayor in Malabon, was travelling in a two-car convoy which was ambushed when it crossed a narrow bridge.

A woman bystander said: "I saw about six men. They surrounded the cars and fired into them before running away in different directions."

Two soldiers, a policeman, a driver, an aide and two bodyguards died immediately. Mr Oreta underwent emergency surgery, and was said last night to be out of danger.

He had reportedly made enemies in a recent campaign to crack down on illegal gambling syndicates, but the military said it believed that the attack was carried out by an NPA "sparrow" unit, the name given to the urban assassination squads. Mr Oreta is a distant relative of President Aquino.

Later in the day, about six miles from the ambush spot, suspected right-wing assassins killed Mr Francisco Castro. He was driving in the car belonging to his brother, José, a founder of the People's Party, who said he believed he had been the target.

## Nicaragua frees first rebel prisoners



One of the 100 Contra supporters released from jail under the peace agreement is embraced by his mother, wife and sister.

## Contras in peace zone dispute

From David Gollob, Managua

The Nicaraguan Government and the Contras yesterday prepared for further negotiations at the Sapo border post, where the initial ceasefire agreement was signed last Wednesday. The talks will focus on the definition of the ceasefire zones into which Contra forces must withdraw by April 15 at the latest.

The Contras claim partial control over nearly two-thirds of Nicaragua, a claim disputed by the Government. Arguments over the size and location of the ceasefire zones are expected, reflecting the anxiety of each side to retain a strategic advantage.

On Sunday 100 prisoners were freed as the Government took its first step to comply with last week's agreement.

The prisoners, convicted or accused of aiding the Contras, were the first batch of 1,500 who will receive amnesty and freedom. Half of the remainder will be released when

Contra forces have withdrawn into the ceasefire zones. The remaining 700 will be freed only when a final peace agreement is signed.

A further 1,800 members of the National Guard of the former dictator, Anastasio Somoza, will be eligible for release from jail once a final agreement is signed.

Their cases will be individually reviewed by the human rights office of the Organization of American States. "This is extremely positive," Señor Mauricio Díaz, leader of the Popular Social Christian Party, said as he walked with some of the prisoners whose release he had obtained. "Neither the Contras nor the Government have any excuse for holding back the peace process now that it has come this far."

Señor Díaz said most of the prisoners were peasants of humble origin and only minor importance.

## Extreme right set to score a win in Mulder territory

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's extreme-right Conservative Party is expected to score another solid victory today in an all-white parliamentary by-election in the urban constituency of Randfontein, some 30 miles west of Johannesburg.

The by-election, a straight contest between the Conservatives and President Botha's ruling National Party — will also mark a fresh episode in the saga of the fluctuating political fortunes of the Mulder dynasty.

Dr Connie Mulder, a former Minister of Information, won the seat for the Conservatives in the white general election of May, 1987, turning a government majority of 922 into a CP majority of 1,732. It was sweet revenge for Dr Mulder who would probably have succeeded John Vorster as Prime Minister had it not been for his involvement in the Department of Information scandal in the late 1970s.

In January of this year, Dr Mulder died at the age of 62. His younger son, Dr Corné Mulder, has stepped into his father's shoes and is confidently expecting to retain Randfontein for the Conservatives.

If so, it will be the second political success for the Mulder family this month. Dr Corné Mulder's elder brother, Pieter, held the Schweizer-Renkke seat in the rural southwestern Transvaal for the Conservatives in a by-election on March 2, quadrupling the party's majority.

The Conservatives, whose party came into being in 1982 as a result of a split in Mr Botha's National Party, only won 22 out of the 166 directly-elected seats in the white House of Assembly at the general election in May, 1987. But that was enough to enable the Conservatives to oust the liberal Progressive Federal Party as the official opposition.

On present growth trends, it is estimated that the Conservatives could win up to 40

more seats — mainly in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State — at another general election. That would still leave it short of a majority in the House of Assembly, and many observers believe it has already reached its ceiling.

But the threat posed by the Conservatives, who advocate a return to rigid old-style apartheid and would reinstate those apartheid measures repealed by the Nationalists, has paralysed the Government and almost halted its hesitant reform programme.

Dr Boy Geldenhuys, the Nationalist candidate in Randfontein, which has 22,000 mainly Afrikaans-speaking white voters, complains that the Conservatives are exploiting "people's fear of blacks".

Among the issues in the by-election campaign have been the Government's plan to relax the Group Areas Act to permit multiracial residential areas where that is desired by the local white inhabitants, as well as proposals to create new black townships in the region.

A curious feature of the campaign has been the relatively low-key coverage in the government-supporting Afrikaans press, compared with the splash treatment of the previous by-election campaigns in Schweizer-Renkke and Standerton, when much was made of the link between the Conservatives and the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

It is almost as if the Government has resigned itself to another heavy defeat, and has decided that the less said about it the better.

sequel to one last Friday in which three suspected "terrorists" were killed by a patrol on the border with Botswana.

"Following up on intelligence gathered during Friday's operation, an element of the Defence Force killed four more terrorists in the suburb of Thirion on the northern outskirts of Gaborone early today. This is further evidence that ANC terrorists, originating from Zambia and Zimbabwe, use Botswana as a transit route to infiltrate into South Africa", the communiqué said.

The Botswana police said the attack occurred at about 1am. The raiders shot their victims and then set them alight. Local people said they heard a helicopter and that the occupants of the house had returned the raiders' fire. In 1985 South Africans raided houses in Gaborone, killing 12 people.

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## Four shot dead in Botswana raid

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

A South African commando unit killed four people in a raid early yesterday on a house in the northern outskirts of Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. Pretoria claimed afterwards that the victims were all "terrorists" of the African National Congress.

President Masire of Botswana condemned what he called "this dastardly attack and murder of innocent people in Botswana by the South African Army". He said three women and one man had been killed in the raid.

The raid came only 24 hours before today's white by-election in Randfontein where the Government is opposed by the extreme-right Conservative Party, which advocates stronger action against neighbouring countries which shelter ANC members.

A communiqué issued by the South African Defence Force said that the raid was a

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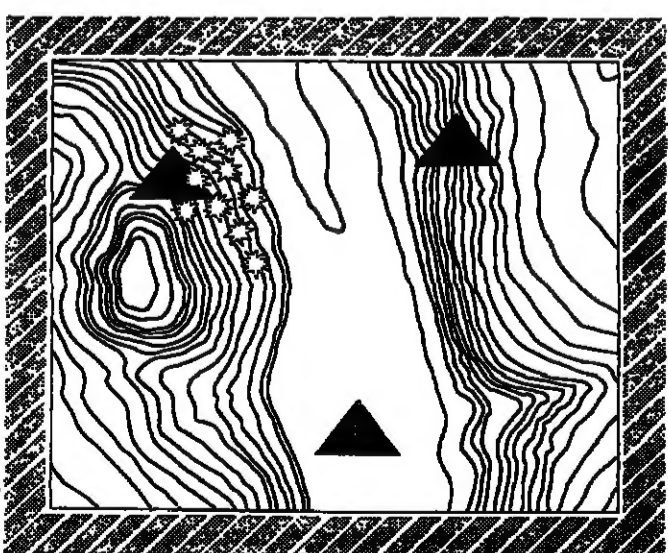
Three enemy tanks covering each other, rumble into view.

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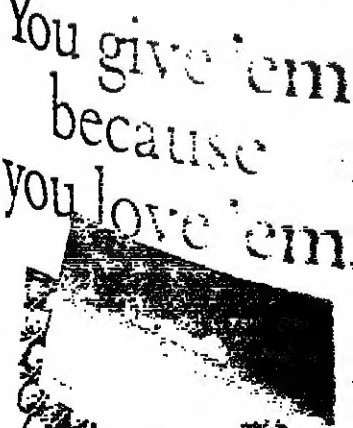
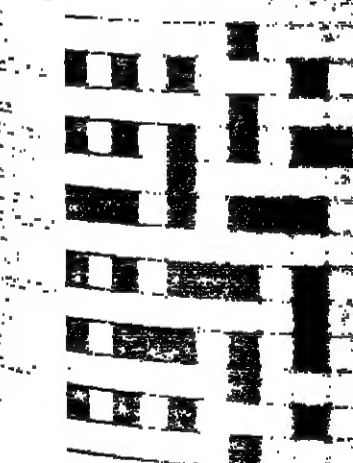
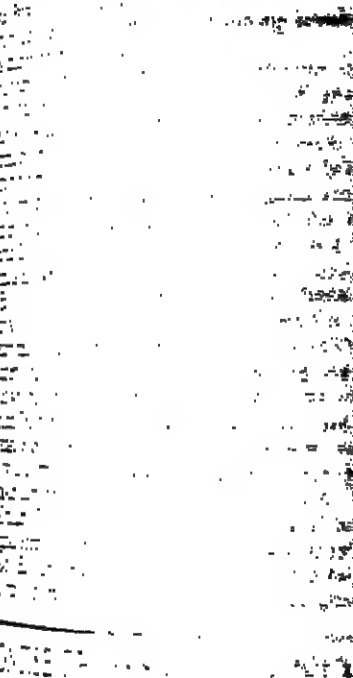
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Book

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SPECTRUM

# Bookworms: the inside story

So what are they reading? Last month we compiled a recommended book list for all children. Today George Hill finds out where the pocket money goes

**H**ardeep, in jeans with a Sikh top-knot on his head, shyly picked up Mrs Wobble from the row of books laid out on a bench and sat on the floor to pore over it. A six-year-old pupil at Bannockburn Primary School, Plumstead, Essex, he was also clutching a dog-eared coupon book. "How much money have I now?" he whispered to Jill Verde, the teacher in charge of the bookshop set up in the school hall every Friday.

"Twenty-six pence — not enough to buy another book yet," she told him. Bannockburn is one of 7,500 schools which have joined the Books for Students school bookshop scheme, run by a subsidiary of W.H. Smith. Every Friday Mrs Verde unlocks a cupboard in the hall and lays out her stock of several hundred paperbacks. Some of the school's older children help unpack the stock, and make hand-coloured posters to brighten up the display. It is a pretty sight, and a powerful tool in promoting the habit of reading.

"There are no bookshops in this area, and many of our pupils don't get read to at home," says Mrs Verde. "Browsing is as important as buying. Let's face it, if some of these children are not introduced to books here, they never will be."

Mrs Verde sells nearly a hundred books a week. Class teachers exchange the small sums children bring from home for 20p stamps to stick into their coupon-books and save up until they can take *Burglar Bill* or *The Worst Witch* home as their own. Books for Students provides schools with stock on a sale-or-return basis, and advice for the teachers organizing the shops about what titles are proving most popular. The shops range from a suitcase set up in a classroom once or twice a term to fully-stocked lock-up shops open every day.

Graham Townson, head of religious education at Imberhorne School, East Grinstead, Surrey, runs one of the most ambitious.



Lasting lessons: the bookshop at Imberhorne School is open every day of term and has an annual turnover of £7,000

Imberhorne is a comprehensive with 1,000 pupils, with junior and senior sections on separate sites, and a branch of the shop in each. The senior branch is in a purpose-built glass frame structure in the lobby of the school hall. It has a turnover of £7,000 a year. "That includes stationery as well as books," says Townson. "Any profits are ploughed back into improving the shop and expanding its stock. A factor in our success is being right at the heart of the school, and 'not somewhere out at the edge of things. Our major sale is study aids — set books, background reading and so on."

Imberhorne's stock, laid out on special display tables, with spotlights and printed posters, ranges from *Teach Yourself Calculus* to Agatha Christie, pop group photo-albums, *Care of Your Rabbit* and *Cyril Ray's Guide to Wine* (a significant part of turnover is in books bought as presents for the family). Townson has the confidence and resources to order books outside those recommended by Books for Students. Most teachers stick more closely to the lists, because it is difficult for them to keep in touch with the ever-changing trends in children's reading. The suppliers are pragmatic in their recommendations. "We don't want to sound too evangelical," says Mary Emerson, general manager of Books for Students. "We are much more interested that children should

read what they find exciting. Even if they prefer something a bit tatty, that's better than nothing. School bookshops are a chance for them to browse without over-much influence from parents. The temptation for grown-ups is to direct them towards the books they knew as children, and miss out on all the exciting books which are coming out today." The Books for Students sales list therefore comes as close as it may be possible to get to a list of the books children really like. We print today for the first time their top 40 fiction best-sellers for last term. Beside them we are reprinting the list of 50 books recommended by our own panel of experts in children's literature, which we published on February 19.

The comparison is striking and instructive. At first glance one might suppose that a generation is growing up who do not know or care about Peter Rabbit, Pooch, or Alice. But some of the apparent differences rest on special factors — Peter Rabbit is not available in paperback, for instance. "We were asked to come up with all-time greats, and no one would expect a selection on that basis to coincide with a list of top buys," says Bryan Alderson, children's books critic for *The Times* and one of those who helped compile *The Times 50*. "Given that, both lists are full of books likely to draw kids on rather than leave them where they are."

"Classics are the kind of books that many children will have in the house anyway," says another panellist, Nina Bayden, perhaps rather optimistically. "I read the *Just So* stories to my children from the copy I had as a child." But Professor Inga-Stina Ewbank of Leeds University and another of our panellists is more concerned about the absence of older classics from the new list. "I'm sure promotion has much to do with it. It bothers me a great deal that *Little Women* and E. Nesbit's books don't appear. The popularity of Judy Blume doesn't surprise me. She is a sort of consciousness-raising Enid Blyton: no one would put her on a list of classics, but she is lively, and children do enjoy her."

One difference between the lists is that our panellists were concerned to provide a varied range, while the best-seller list reflects the delight children take in following one author right along the shelf. "There is a run-on effect. Look at Roald Dahl: but his stories are far richer in incident and vocabulary than some of the big best-sellers of the past," says Bryan Alderson. All agree that much depends on what teachers promote by discussing and reading in class. Jill Verde at Bannockburn even had on her shelves *Moonfleet* — one of our 50, and a splendid old melodrama, but a big bite of print for a primary school pupil. No one has bought it yet, but she does not despair that some Plumstead 11-year-old may get bitten with the desire to know what is hidden in that well at Carisbrook Castle.

## THE TIMES 50: BOOKS CHILDREN SHOULD READ

In order of votes cast by our panellists

### AGES 3-7

<i>Just So Stories</i> ..... Rudyard Kipling	<i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> ..... Beatrix Potter
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> ..... E. B. White	<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> ..... Eric Carle
<i>The World of Pooch</i> ..... Shirley Hughes	<i>My Gumpy's Outing</i> ..... John Burningham
<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> ..... Maurice Sendak	<i>Each Peach Pear Plum</i> ..... Alison and Janet Ahlberg
<i>Mr Magoo</i> ..... Quentin Blake	<i>Rosie's Walk</i> ..... Pat Hutchins
<i>Now We Are Six</i> ..... A. A. Milne	<i>Where's Spot?</i> ..... Eric Hill

### AGES 8-11

<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> ..... Kenneth Grahame	<i>The Hobbit</i> ..... J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>Tom's Midnight Garden</i> ..... Philippa Pearce	<i>BFG</i> ..... Roald Dahl
<i>The Iron Man</i> ..... Ted Hughes	<i>The Secret Garden</i> ..... Frances Hodgson Burnett
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> ..... Charles Dickens	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> ..... C.S. Lewis
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> ..... Lewis Carroll	<i>Complete Monty Python Book</i> ..... Monty Python
<i>The Ghost of Thomas Kempe</i> ..... Penelope Lively	<i>The Silver Sword</i> ..... Jan Serrallier
<i>Slig of the Dump</i> ..... Clive King	<i>Tin Shovel</i> ..... Alan Garner
<i>The Treasure Seekers</i> ..... E. Nesbit	<i>The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler</i> ..... Gene Kemp
<i>The Wolves of Willoughby Chase</i> ..... Joan Aiken	

### AGES 12-18

<i>The Eagle of the North</i> ..... Rosemary Sutcliffe	<i>Treasure Island</i> ..... R. L. Stevenson
<i>Brother in the Land</i> ..... Anne Frank	<i>Smith</i> ..... Leon Garfield
<i>The Machine Gunners</i> ..... Robert Westall	<i>1984</i> ..... George Orwell
<i>Barrie's War</i> ..... Nina Bayden	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> ..... J. D. Salinger
<i>The Box of Delights</i> ..... John Masefield	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> ..... Anne Frank
<i>The Earthsea Trilogy</i> ..... Ursula Le Guin	<i>Enid and the Relatives</i> ..... Frith Kestner
<i>Goldengrove</i> ..... Jill Paton Walsh	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> ..... Mark Twain
<i>Jane Eyre</i> ..... Charlotte Brontë	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> ..... A. Conan Doyle
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> ..... William Golding	<i>Memoirs</i> ..... J. Meade Falkner
<i>The Owl Service</i> ..... Alan Garner	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> ..... Jane Austen

## TOP TENS: THE CHILDREN'S CHOICE

In order of copies sold in 7,500 school bookshops around the country during the winter term 1987 (details compiled by Books for Students).

### PICTURE BOOKS

<i>Fannybones</i> ..... Allan and Janet Ahlberg	<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> ..... Eric Carle
<i>Burglar Bill</i> ..... Roald Dahl	<i>The Enormous Turnip</i> ..... Roald Dahl
<i>The Tiger Who Came to Tea</i> ..... Judith Kerr	<i>Mrs Wobble the Waitress</i> ..... Allan and Janet Ahlberg
<i>The 101 Dalmatians</i> ..... Walt Disney version	<i>The Very Worst Monster</i> ..... Pat Hutchins
<i>Dogger</i> ..... Shirley Hughes	<i>Gonks</i> ..... Anthony Browne

### AGES 5-9

<i>Fantastic Mr Fox</i> ..... Roald Dahl	<i>George's Marvellous Medicine</i> ..... Roald Dahl
<i>The Twits</i> ..... Roald Dahl	<i>The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark</i> ..... Jill Tomlinson
<i>A Bad Spell for the Worst Witch</i> ..... Jill Murphy	<i>The Worst Witch</i> ..... Jill Murphy
<i>Flat Stanley</i> ..... Jeff Brown	<i>The Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up</i> ..... Jill Tomlinson
<i>Dinner Ladies Don't Count</i> ..... Bernard Ashley	<i>The Village Dinosaurs</i> ..... Phyllis Arkle

### AGES 9-12

<i>BFG</i> ..... Roald Dahl	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i> ..... Roald Dahl
<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> ..... E.B. White	<i>The Witches</i> ..... Roald Dahl
<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> ..... C.S. Lewis	<i>The Hobbit</i> ..... J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>Danny, Champion of the World</i> ..... Roald Dahl	<i>The Iron Man</i> ..... Ted Hughes
<i>Superlodge</i> ..... Judy Blume	

### TEENAGE FICTION

<i>The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole</i> ..... Sue Townsend	<i>The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13½</i> ..... Sue Townsend
<i>Kes</i> ..... Barry Hines	<i>Debbie</i> ..... Judy Blume
<i>Tiger Eyes</i> ..... Judy Blume	<i>Booby</i> ..... Nigel Hinton
<i>My Family and Other Animals</i> ..... Gerald Durrell	<i>Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself</i> ..... Judy Blume
<i>The Machine Gunners</i> ..... Robert Westall	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> ..... William Golding

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1526

**ACROSS**

- Chat (6)
- Greece/Turkey sea (6)
- Increases (3)
- Main body organs (6)
- Deprive of food (6)
- Prophet (4)
- Not fully grown (8)
- Bethany Gethsemane hill (5,2,6)
- Look like (8)
- Chief Venetian magistrate (4)
- Tapped (6)
- Exports (6)
- Geometric code symbol (1,1,1)
- Thin (6)
- Score (6)

**DOWN**

- Sheep-like (5)
- Pleasant smell (9)
- Samurai code (7)
- Indian tea state (5)
- Indian coast resort (3)
- Medicine (5,4)
- Egyptian monument (7)
- Consume too much (7)
- Pol (5)
- Gain access to (3,2)
- Range of knowledge (3)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1525**

**ACROSS:** 1 Karnak 5 Cape 8 Legal 9 Nemesis 11 Browbeat 13 Awey 15 Vancouver 18 Able 19 Scansion 22 Thorau 23 Media 24 Sack 25 Thrush

**DOWN:** 2 Anglo 3 Nil 4 Kangaroo court 5 Come 6 Postwar 7 Clubs 10 Says 12 Bent 14 Avon 15 Volpone 16 Bait 17 Sneak 20 Indus 21 Leak 23 Mar

## Heart of oaks

How forests are helping to breathe new life and fresher air into the inner city

Sheepwash is no ordinary forest. It is 70 acres of worked-out claypit and mineshaft next to an Inter-City railway line. Its soil retains traces of metal poisoning, the residues of a defunct ironworks. Through the pores of its landscape it exhales methane — marsh gas, as it was once known — generated by thousands of tons of buried rubbish.

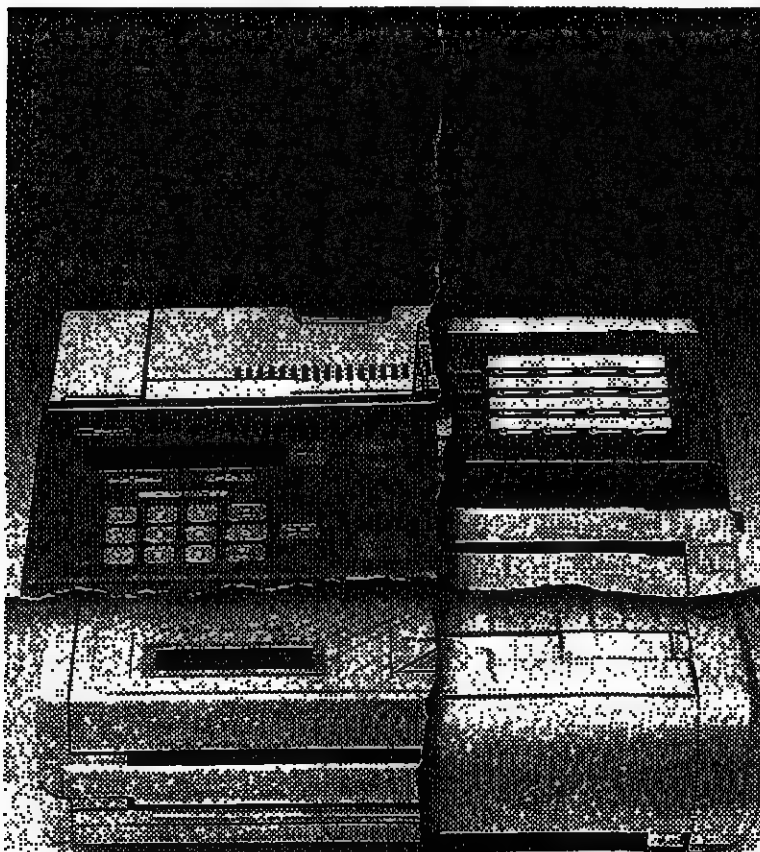
Sheepwash is new territory for Bert Brooke, who has spent 40 years ranging over vaster and purer plantations in the Cumbrian fells, the Forest of Arden and Cannock Chase. Brooke's motivation is simple. Trees, he says, are good for the soul. More than 300 industrialists, planners, developers and conservationists gather today in the Black Country for what is billed as Britain's first full-time urban forester, it is its prime specimen.

Planting forests in cities is one of the newest and most intriguing weapons in the expanding armoury of urban renewal. Today's conference, at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, stems from an initiative two years ago by the Department of the Environment which at first generated "healthy scepticism", according to Peter Langley, the DoE official who chairs the Black Country working party.

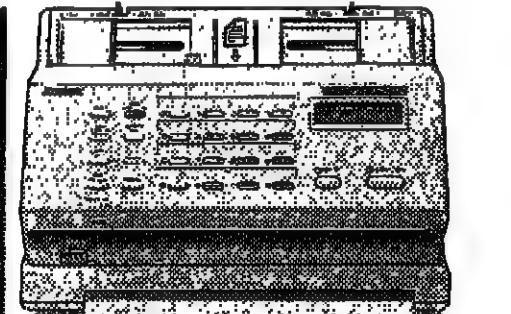
That view has now been considerably revised. Present at today's meeting, which is backed by 19 environmental organizations, will be companies such as ICI, Esso, Wimpey and the CEBG, as well as the Forestry Commission. Forest cover in cities in England and Wales is already estimated at more than 70,000 acres and is growing fast. At least 500 separate patches of derelict land are being planted, according to Langley. Up to 40 sites in the Black Country, for example; in Glasgow more than 100 areas have been earmarked for forestry; in London, last year saw the launch of the Forest of London project, backed by UK2000 and Barclays Bank. In all of them, native species are preferred to conifers.

The concept of the urban forest is essentially American, as is the contribution it can make to urban renewal. "We want the idea of the urban forest to become central to the whole idea of regenerating inner cities," Langley says.

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New Words for Old will be appearing tomorrow

David Nicholson-Lord



# TIMES DIARY

SHIRLEY LOWE

The boys in dark blue have just rowed past my window. It is the 134th Oxford and Cambridge boat race on Saturday and already excitement is mounting by which I mean that there is one man on the towpath studying the Oxford form through fieldglasses. Probably the Cambridge coach.

Because our house overlooks the river we've been hosting the obligatory boat race party and watching this sporting non-event for more than 20 years. The fact that the same team nearly always wins and the crew that gets away first usually gets to Mortlake first, makes this contest as exhilarating as television darts, though we have had the odd moments of drama. The first lady cox, indistinguishable from a male cox as she huddled down; and the time when Oxford, or was it Cambridge? (as John Snagge might have said) sank slowly before our eyes.

One real pleasure is the privilege of a grandstand view. As one of the daughters put it, when she was eight: "Isn't it lovely in here, cosy and warm, and all those people out there getting wet." Exactly. Now even this pleasure has diminished since there are no crowds to crow over. Last year there was a mere sprinkling of spectators below us, half of them hopefully trying to flog expensive rosettes in two tones of blue.

On the memorable occasion four years ago when the Cambridge cox absent-mindedly rammed his boat into a stationary barge by Pymsey Bridge, nobody in our party except me (the anxious hostess who had organized everything else so nicely) appeared to notice that there was no race to watch. I'm beginning to wonder if I do anyone, except the boys' mothers, care any more whether Oxford or Cambridge wins?

I have a novelist friend in New York who shares a maid with Susan Gutfreund. This guarantees my friend endless free lunches on the Le Cirque circuit, where ladies lunch and shred reputations, because Susan Gutfreund's gaffes and gaucheries are valuable social currency.

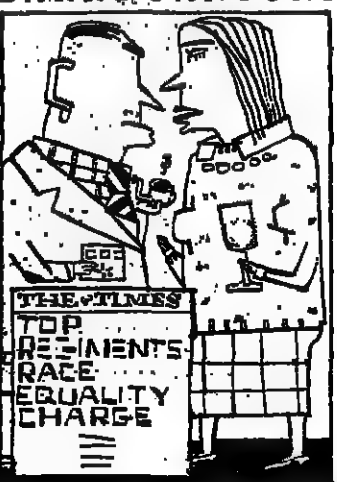
"It's so expensive to be rich," said Susan, after she and her two-year-old son and the nanny had to put up at the Ritz while she renovated her French home. Susan is an extrovert and assiduous social climber who, seven years ago, married Salomon Brothers' chairman John Gutfreund, the made-good bond trader who has not been doing so good since Black Monday, and since, say the lunching ladies, his beautiful younger wife channelled his mind off money and on to Monet (they have one in the hall) and the finer things of life.

Everyone titters at the way Susan spent more than \$20 million decorating their Fifth Avenue duplex and then repeated the process in Paris, picking up a lot of fancy French ways en route. "Madame is in the funnery," her butler tells telephone callers, and when she was introduced to Nancy Reagan, Mrs Gutfreund curtsied: "Bonsoir madame." The man at *Spy* magazine, which is like *Private Eye* only ruder and funnier, says that although they make a regular practice of sneering at Mrs Gutfreund, they don't see any point in printing a satirical article on her since nothing could improve on the original. "She even takes a stretched limo to her exercise classes."

On the day of the England-Holland friendly match at Wembley, The Netherlands ambassador hosted another friendly Anglo-Dutch occasion, a party for the Dutch journalist Henri van der Zee and his wife, the English writer Barbara Grigs, who have just published their second book on William and Mary. They married while they were writing the first book. This in spite of Barbara rushing back from the British Library crying out with pleasure that she'd discovered Mary's detailed dress bill, revealing that the Queen spent £1,321 in nine months on accessories alone, and Henri saying they wouldn't have room for all that, he'd just been researching the London Jacobite plot and it was absolutely fascinating stuff.

Now, 15 years, and two children later, they've written 1688. *Revolution in the Family*, which tells how William and Mary ousted James II from the throne. "It's as if the Princess of Wales led an armed revolution against the Queen, aided and abetted by Prince Charles, with Princess Anne egging them on from the sidelines," says Barbara. Writing a book together, they say, is an excellent training for marriage.

BARRY FANTONI



"Why all the fuss, there's the Black Watch, isn't there?"

I've always believed that the more you spend on holidays the less you enjoy them. Fresh fish in a Greek taverna is more gourmet than is international cuisine at the local four-star hotel, and the people you meet on a package tour are generally jollier than the seriously rich shipmates who want you to make up a fourth at bridge as you cruise the world. Now I'm extending this theory to air travel.

On a recent trip my partner travelled first class and I crunched gratefully in economy on my free spouse ticket. For lunch my husband was served sole drenched in a pretentious wine sauce and I had perfect pasta and salad. At tea-time, first-class passengers were piled with tiny sandwiches and gateaux and we got fresh orange juice and a slice of British Rail's ultimate delicacy, wrapped cake oozing with cherries. To make the journey even more irritating for the VIP, he suffered a lively travelling companion who pruned his fingernails and chatted for six hours 10 minutes, and I had three empty seats to myself.

By coincidence, EEC finance ministers will next meet in Luxembourg on April 18, the very day that Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary, launches the British 1992 Campaign at Lancaster House, with the aid of Mrs Thatcher.

Lord Young, while alerting British business to the opportunities of the unified European market that will come into being in 1992, will once again make clear that he sees no connection between that and British membership of the European Monetary System (EMS).

To some extent, Lord Young is right. The European Commission's proposals for 1992 do not specifically link the single market to British entry into the EMS. The EMS dates from 1978, when the 1992 programme was a glint in the Commission's eye. It was intended as a way of stabilizing European currency fluctuations after the collapse of the post-war Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate system and the partial failure of the European "snake," which allowed fluctuations within certain limits.

The EMS, by contrast, is a system for full currency management, under which currencies taking part in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) have fixed

Richard Owen on the forces pushing Britain to monetary union

## When EMS meets 1992

rates against the Ecu (European Currency Unit).

In other words there are the seeds here of a common monetary system, and, indeed, a common currency — the Ecu, which at present is notional but could one day replace the pound, mark and franc in your pocket, thus making life a great deal easier for both businessmen and travellers in a frontier-free Europe.

The eight currencies participating in the Exchange Rate Mechanism have their Ecu rate regularly realigned at a bargaining session of European finance ministers. When a currency reaches its floor, the central banks intervene in foreign exchange markets to support it. To allow this, there is a reserve, called the European Monetary Co-operation Fund, which draws on member states' gold and dollar reserves.

The consensus, after nearly a

decade, is that the EMS works remarkably well. Among other benefits, it has reduced inflation differentials between EEC economies. But the main drawback nine years on is that Britain remains firmly outside the ERM and British Chancellor are reduced to sitting in on EEC realignments as observers.

Greece, Spain and Portugal remain outside the system because as recent EEC members their economies and national currencies are not yet strong enough. Only Britain shuns the EMS for doctrinal reasons, namely Mrs Thatcher's belief that the pound fares better on its own. Far from resolving the issue, the recent row on exchange-rate intervention between the Prime Minister and Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor (who supports British membership of the EMS) seems to have made matters worse; the "broad agreement" achieved at No 10

on Friday avoided the EMS issue altogether.

Yet if economic and monetary union is not formally part of 1992, the whole logic of the programme points in that direction. Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, has made it clear that Brussels' long-term aim is a European Central Bank. This is supported by Edouard Balladur, the French Finance Minister, and by Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister — though not for the time being, either by Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Finance Minister, or by the powerful Bundesbank, the West German Central Bank.

Herr Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank President, observed earlier this month that a European Central Bank could only come about when the Ecu was a real rather than notional currency. EEC governments, he suggested, were not yet ready for

the "wide-ranging sacrifice of sovereignty this would entail". But he argues that a "closer integration of currencies" — including sterling — is necessary for a fully integrated market of goods, services and capital.

Officials in Brussels point out that the liberalization of capital movements across frontiers is part of 1992. If money moves freely across frontiers, and high street banks can open branches anywhere in the EEC, can sterling remain outside the EMS?

Mrs Thatcher's answer, it seems, is yes it can. But the Germans point to the way sterling, in practice, is already aligned with the Deutschmark. Mr Lawson made much the same point in Brussels in February when he admitted for the first time that the pound was being kept in line with the EMS in general and the D-Mark in particular, a point he is expected to repeat this week to the

Treasury Select Committee. Treasury officials are keeping a close watch on the Franco-German Finance Council, which was set up this month and is further consolidating Franco-German control of European monetary affairs.

There are differences between Paris and Bonn over how the EMS should be strengthened, and whether participating countries should contribute more to the common reserve. But the argument is being thrashed out inside a key organization to which Britain has by its own choosing no access.

One likely result, officials in Brussels maintain, is that despite Lord Young's campaign to ensure that British business is prepared for 1992, British trade in Europe will suffer because of sterling being out in the cold. Another is that the Deutschmark, already the dominant currency in Europe, will in time come to serve as the *de facto* common European currency, at least until the Ecu gets off the ground.

It remains to be seen whether this prospect will overcome Mrs Thatcher's apparent fear that joining the EMS would be one more nail in the coffin of British national sovereignty.

T.E. Utley

## Morality overcome by fumes

It somehow does not think that the latest blow struck in the official crusade against smoking is a particularly formidable one. It is contained in the *Fourth Report of the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health* published last week — a document of 68 pages including appendices, most of which is largely unintelligible to the average layman.

Nevertheless, relative lucidity and simple honesty are allowed to break through from time to time. The most sustained such interruption is provided by the following passage, for the length of which I apologise:

"In our Third Report we concluded that the reported association between passive smoking and lung cancer was speculative. Since then a number of new studies have been reported. The majority of reports conclude that passive smoking is associated with an increased risk of lung cancer in non-smokers. A minority conclude from their own data that any effect of passive smoking on the risk of lung cancer or other smoking-related disease in a non-smoker is negligible and that the increased risk noted in other studies is largely an artefact."

"The published studies have been scrutinized by various groups of researchers to determine whether collectively they present a reasonably consistent picture from which the existence and magnitude of the relative risk might be assessed. The major problem is the extent to which individuals with lung cancer were misclassified as non-smokers when they were in fact smokers or ex-smokers. After making allowances for such misclassifications, and other artefacts, and then calculating relative risks in each study, most of the scientific groups conclude that while none of the studies can on its own be accepted as unequivocal the findings overall are consistent with there being a small increase in the risk of lung cancer from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, in the

range 10 to 30 per cent, though some other workers have however argued for a much lower relative risk, or no increased risk at all. The Committee, studying the same data, agrees with the former interpretation and so upholds the view expressed in its interim statement."

Now, as a layman, I would freely translate these conclusions as follows: "We (your committee) are in the noble business of putting down smoking. We have done pretty well in establishing the case that smokers expose themselves to a substantial risk of lung cancer; but we are still up against this obstinate British libertarianism which argues (quite fraudulently) that this is their own business. If we could only establish that by smoking they are not only killing themselves, but killing their families and their colleagues, we should have scored a real bulls eye."

"Well, in our last report we took the first step by saying that the connection between passive smoking and lung cancer was speculative and to be considered. We hoped like mad that subsequent research would confirm this beyond dispute. Subsequent research has not really done so. A majority of reports suggests that there may be a connection, a minority of reports suggests that there is not. None of these reports is thoroughly reliable, but somehow taken together a roughly reliable conclusion can be inferred from them. Anyway, this is what we are jolly well going to do — not, of course, by fudging the evidence (for we are all honourable men) but by exhaustively stating it in sufficiently obscure language and then supplying its deficiencies by a dogmatic assertion of our collective, highly expert opinion."

There are other difficulties that this report presents to the lay mind. This 10 to 30 per cent increase in a passive smoker's chance of lung cancer makes good headline stuff, but in practice (if I have got it right) what it means is that if I were a non-smoker who kept company



exclusively with equally salubrious and upright people, my chances at getting lung cancer would stand at 10 to 100,000; if I consorted with smokers, however, my chances might go up to 11 or even 13 — and even that is all very "fifty".

Again, would I not have to expose myself night and day in a confined and ill-ventilated space for several weeks to the fumes of inequity before I had consumed the equivalent of one cigarette? And is it really true that this danger

(from one of the many pollutants in an average office or house) could in no way be reduced by better ventilation?

Perhaps there are answers to these questions; if so, ignorant as I am, I would like to have them politely and lucidly stated. I recall, in this connection, a charming if rather unscientific remark made by Lord Hartwell early in the smoking controversy: "They say they have tried it on rats; but they give these rats six or seven cigarettes at a time; who has ever seen a human being smoking six or seven cigarettes simultaneously?" I do

not cite this as evidence, but merely as an example of the kind of scepticism felt by simple lay people about expert conclusions announced too obscurely and arrogantly.

Now, there are serious questions of manners and morals involved in this dispute. I think smokers have a lot to answer for. Their manners were brutalized under the pressures of the last war, when we all began smoking between courses with little regard to the taste or comfort of our companions. In pre-war days there were conventions about smoking, such as that gentlemen

should wait until the ladies had withdrawn before settling down to their cigars. This was a practice to be defended on general social grounds, and one which is still observed in respectable households.

But now the tables have been turned. The smoking population, however civil and considerate they may be to others, is exposed to a brutal and gratuitous persecution. Only the other day, a friend of mine in the tobacco industry was addressed thus by a medical apparition: "You will go to your grave knowing that you have killed thousands of people. I will go to mine knowing that I have saved thousands of people." This was insolent and, since it referred to "knowing" and thereby implied deliberate homicidal intention, false.

Few human temptations are stronger than the wish to interfere with other people's lives in the name of morality. I remember years ago visiting a friend in hospital. Of course, I refrained from smoking at her bedside, until, with immense relief, I observed she was herself lighting a series of cigarettes in rapid succession. I took my packet out, but she immediately asked me not to smoke on the ground that though she could still do it without ill effect she suffered from the fumes exhaled by her visitors. Perhaps there is a scientific explanation for this, perhaps we should all smoke as long as we are careful not to inhale other people's fumes.

This plainly unfinished debate should be carried on courteously and freely, no sort of pressure should be put on the medical profession to reach a consensus, and no official imprimatur should be given to its current dicey conclusions. The other night I heard Mrs Currie on the television; she was surprisingly moderate; her voice had an unusual quality in it — that, I thought, of a member of the Government who has been "spoken to". I hope she has.

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

## Trial by water rate

The latest figures from the Water Authorities Association show a massive increase in the number of water disconnections for non-payment of bills: up from 2,000 three years ago to more than 7,000. This excludes the disconnections made by the statutory water companies, who account for a quarter of all consumers. So the true total may now be nearer 10,000 each year.

Yet after the social security changes in April, these figures will rise dramatically. So much so that the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Nacab) fears it is soon to be inundated with families facing prolonged periods without water or sanitation. That anxiety is shared by the water authorities, which are only now beginning to come to terms with the full impact of the changes.

At the moment, the owner-occupier pays rates directly to the water authority. The private tenant pays the landlord or the authority. The council tenant will usually have the water rates included in the rent paid to the council which, in turn, will be responsible for passing on the water rates of all tenants. Disputes, therefore, do not normally arise between council tenants and the water authority because the council is liable and must secure payment from its tenants.

Other than exceptionally, non-payment of bills is due to financial difficulties — unemployment, marital break-up, or simply poverty. Those on supplementary benefit are most likely to be unable to pay, since their household budgets are least able to cope with unexpected expenditures or shortfalls.

But at present a sum representing their water rates is included in their benefit. In

respect of council tenants receiving benefit, money for the water rates will be sent to councils directly from the DHSS. Thus councils can pay the water authorities knowing that they will be reimbursed.

Further protection is contained in the water industry's code of practice for domestic consumers. This provides that the water of those receiving benefit will not be cut off until their circumstances have been examined. But it specifically warns that if social security cannot help, then the supply may be cut off.

Water authorities are already becoming much tougher with those in arrears — hence the huge increase in the numbers disconnected. Nacab has even come across one water board that encloses an advertisement for a money-lending service with bills sent to customers who have been falling behind with payments.

From April, when income support replaces supplementary benefit, no special sum will be payable in respect of water rates. Owner-occupiers or tenants liable for water rates will have to find the money out of whatever global sum they receive from the DHSS. If they cannot do so, they may be forced to pay.

The circumstances of council tenants, however, will be even more radically altered. Since no supplementary benefit will be claimable for water rates, the DHSS will no longer reimburse the local authority for water rates, which will be added to tenants' rents. Worse, the large number of tenants receiving supplementary benefit who have their rent and rates paid through housing benefit will start receiving bills from the council for the first time. They will often be

pensioners, some of whom won't have paid rent or rates for years, and who will be confused and worried about the new system.

At first blush, this appears merely to give the council a headache. But by law local authorities can opt out of collecting the water rates from their tenants and oblige them to pay directly. In practice, due to the reimbursement procedure, very few do. But now there is a substantial risk that more councils, especially those already squeezed by central government's financial controls, will dump the problem of collecting rates from the poor on to the rating authority.

If they do so, the tenants will become directly liable and, on non-payment, face disconnection. Already two councils in the North-west, covering 15,000 tenants, have decided to end their role as collectors when the social security changes take effect.

The Government appears unconcerned. But then, for them, this is all satisfactory. It is part of weaning the benefit claimants off "the dependency culture". This theory of pseudo-sociology has it that the real problem of the poor is that they have lost the motivation that springs from self-reliance. In other words, stripped of pretension: "It's their own fault."

This is the true thinking behind many of the changes in social security. It is not a very radical idea; it's just so reactionary that very few are now alive who remember it of old. Do we really need young children going without water or sanitation to discover that Thatcherism is old-fashioned after all?

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield

SCIENCE REPORT

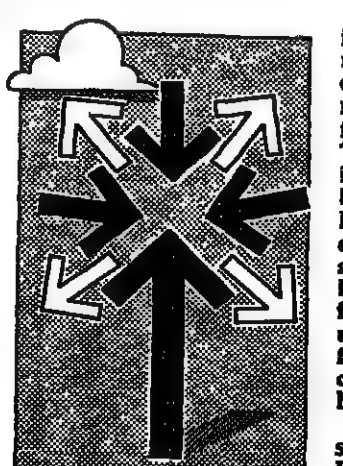
## Forest murmurs

The extent of rain forest interaction with the low atmosphere of the Earth is now being uncovered. In a study sponsored by the US and Brazilian space research organizations, the Amazon Basin has been found to be a prolific source of the hydrocarbon isoprene, which in combination with other chemicals may affect ozone levels.

The discovery that, after methane, isoprene (one of the raw materials of synthetic rubber) is the most abundant hydrocarbon given off by rain forests is not especially surprising, but its scale is. Two of the investigators, R.A. Rasmussen and M.A.E. Khalil from the Oregon Graduate Centre, estimate that the Amazon Basin may produce as much as 60 million tonnes of the hydrocarbon each year.

Another research group, from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research at Boulder, Colorado, confirms the scale of the emission, estimating that it amounts to between 2 and 3 per cent of the Amazon Basin's total primary production (the amount of carbon, as carbon dioxide, converted by sunlight into carbon-based chemicals).

The importance of this discovery rests on the effectiveness with which isoprene can disrupt the normal chemical chemistry of water molecules, and the fragments produced from them, in a strongly sunlit atmosphere such as that over the Amazon. Some of the investigators suggest that, with the nitric



oxide also copiously produced by the Amazon forests, the isoprene may have the effect of increasing amounts of ozone in the low atmosphere, increasing the chance of photochemical smog. Elsewhere, in West Germany for example, low-level ozone has been suggested as a cause of damage to growing trees.

Although the research was carried out in the 1985 dry season (July and August), the first full scientific account has only now appeared in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*. The long-term objective of the study, called the Amazon Boundary Layer Experiment or ABLE 2A, is to understand the influence of rain forests on the Earth's climate, taking advantage of sensitive methods now available for the measurement of gases present in the atmosphere in tiny amounts.

Another of the study's find-

ings is that some parts of the rain forest extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at a rate of 33 kilograms an hour for every hectare of forest. These measurements have an importance because of their bearing on the degree to which large forest areas may partly compensate for the increased amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide caused by burning fossil fuel. This is the process underlying contemporary fears of change in the global climate known as the greenhouse effect.

Measurements by a research group from Harvard University have shown that, like all growing plants, the Amazonian rain forests give off carbon dioxide at night, but take it in during the day. The rate of extraction of carbon dioxide at midday was found to be four times the average rate during sunset hours.

One surprising result of the measurements now reported is the quite substantial, and steady output of carbon dioxide from the soil in which the forests grow, amounting to more than 6 kilograms of carbon dioxide an hour from every hectare.

The measurements now reported are plainly an insufficient basis for a definitive estimate of the role of the Amazon in the world's carbon dioxide cycle. But further refinement may come from a follow-up study, called ABLE 2B, which took place last year during the wet season in Amazonia.

JOHN MADDOX

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## ANGELS AND DEVILS

No one asked to identify the senior Conservatives closest to Mrs Thatcher in essentials of policy could avoid the names of Mr Norman Tebbit, Mr Nigel Lawson, and Lord Young. No one asked to recollect the three most painful, public rows of the past two years could avoid those same names.

To fall out with Mr Tebbit amid the rivalries that prevailed after the Westland affair was understandable. To fall out with Lord Young after the tensions of the election campaign was forgivable. However, to fall out with the most successful Chancellor in living memory — and on the eve of his most radical and creative Budget — seemed careless, even cavalier.

This row between Downing Street neighbours will be brought up again when the Chancellor of the Exchequer discusses exchange rate policy with the Treasury Select Committee tomorrow. But, as has been noted by the Government's opponents and friends alike, the confrontation is only to a tiny extent about the merits of the European Monetary System. When the Chancellor tiptoes too closely to a policy of the Prime Minister has a deep emotional objection and is roundly rebuffed for his pains; when Lord Young supports Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe supports Mr Lawson, and lesser men leak this way and that; then it is political succession, not economic success, which hangs in the air.

So can one blame those in the popular press who suggest that the "knives are out for Maggie", that Mr Tebbit and Mr Lawson are "ganging up" on their erstwhile protector, that the "windows of Downing Street have misted over and Mrs Thatcher is unable to see further than the front door"? Something is up. When senior politicians in private speak of little but the next Prime Minister, they can hardly be surprised when journalists try to follow their cue.

But what is the cue to be followed? Mr Lawson and Mr Tebbit have long worked together. They were a formidable double act during the parliamentary destruction of the Wilson premiership. They entered the Cabinet on the same day. They have different skills but similar outlooks. Each is known greatly to admire the other. Mr Tebbit is particularly known to admire Mr Lawson, not least because of his much reduced admiration for so many of his other erstwhile Cabinet colleagues.

## THE JACKSON VOTE

The first thing to be borne in mind about the contest which the Rev Jesse Jackson has won in Michigan is that it was not a primary like any other. Voting in most of the state was in caucuses. Mr Jackson won handsomely, but within a turnout of fewer than 200,000 people in an electorate of 5.8 million; more a small soil erosion than a landslide.

The second thing to be borne in mind is that, for the time being, the above crucial distinction will make no difference to the Democratic Party's panic-stricken elders — its state governors, congressmen and officials. Under the simplifying influence of television, all stages of the presidential nominating process — primaries and caucuses — are now reported as if they are of equal importance. Victory among a few voters is depicted as if it were as significant as victory among many.

Doubt is now cast on the abilities, as vote winner, of Governor Dukakis, of Massachusetts — a previous victor. Yesterday, the unofficial word from Governor Mario Cuomo — made known in such a way as to be easily deniable — was that the Governor of New York had changed his mind, for the time being, about endorsing the Governor of Massachusetts. Endorsing Mr Dukakis had been something Mr Cuomo, again unofficially, had been toying with ever since an opinion poll last week showed that Mr Dukakis was the only Democrat who could beat Vice-President Bush in November.

At this point, it is customary for foreigners to say it is a crazy way of choosing a president — and for quite a few Americans to agree. But perhaps the craziness lies in the way so many people react to the choosing of a president — to the admittedly long, but exhaustive, system by which many voters, and methods of voting, are given their say.

Mr Jackson had a big win in Michigan because the caucus system favours people who have a greater degree of commitment to a candidate than has the average voter. That is, people who are prepared to go out to vote at a meeting: the caucus. A primary is no different from a general election in that the polling stations are open all day. In any healthy society, people prepared to go to political meetings are far smaller than those prepared to go briefly into a polling booth.

Fifty per cent of Mr Jackson's vote came from two black areas in one of which, Dearborn, there is also the only sizable Arab vote in the

Does that mean, however, that they are "ganging up" on the Prime Minister? Hardly. If the evidence is slight, the likelihood is slighter still. The relationship between the two may be a factor in any future contest to succeed Mrs Thatcher. That does not mean that their combined strength is now ready to be deployed against her.

The last time at which ministers could seriously be said to be "ganging up" to remove the Prime Minister was in the spring of 1986. Two ministers (Mr Heseltine and Mr Brittan) had resigned, a third (Mr Biffen) had called for "a balanced ticket", and it might have needed only a concerted shove from a disaffected Mr Tebbit or an unhappy Sir Geoffrey Howe to force her out. Since then, there has been no prospect of that. There has been only talk — which, as is the way in the Tory party, only occasionally turns up in print and, even then, falls quickly back amid denials and (in Mr Tebbit's case) derision.

For the Government's enemies it is frustrating. For those of them with any real understanding of Tory affairs, the fact that Mrs Thatcher is falling out with her closest ideological supporters is no cause to rejoice. The year is not 1981, when true divisions scarred the Tory ranks and Mrs Thatcher had to fight and win against the relics of the Heath administration. It is 1988 when what passes for political dissent is an argument about the mechanics of sound economic management.

Yet the disturbances of the past two weeks are not entirely without meaning for the immediate governance of Britain. Mrs Thatcher's top ministers are tolerant men; they have needed to be. They recognize the vast personal contribution which the Prime Minister still makes. They are happy to joke that Mrs Thatcher would like to fill all the Cabinet jobs herself. But they are rightly unhappy if she takes the joke too seriously.

Mr Lawson, Mr Tebbit and Lord Young are in every truly important respect at one with the Prime Minister and the best interests of Britain. Trying seriously to prise them apart is as counting angels on the pinhead of Thatcherism. They may not always behave with the obedience she would like. But she should consider how much better are the angels she knows to all the devils she does not.

United States — which naturally voted for Mr Jackson, the embracer both of Mr Arafat's policies and his person. Mr Jackson is thought to have been supported by between 15 to 20 per cent of whites who voted.

No one believes that Mr Jackson will win the nomination, but there is an outside chance that he will arrive at the convention with more delegates than Mr Dukakis. The party elders will try to deny him the nomination, just as it will try to deny him much influence on the party programme — or choice of Vice-Presidential candidate — even if he arrives at the convention second in delegates to Mr Dukakis.

Is that because he is black? Certainly, that is one of the reasons why some people will be against him, and it would be humbug to deny it. Bigotry cannot be banished from any society, including a society run by Mr Jackson's nastier supporters and associates. But he has made of his blackness a policy. He has sided with various charismatic despots such as President Castro and Mr Arafat — in blaming the Third World's ills on American capitalism and imperialism. He implies that the ills of American blacks have the same cause.

Mr Jackson is not unelectable because blacks vote for him. Since he is the first black presidential candidate in a major party, that is understandable. He is unelectable because of the kind of whites who vote for him. The entrails from Michigan show him with disproportionate support from the sort of voters — such as those in the state's numerous university towns — who were for Mr McGovern in 1972. He was unelectable, and white.

Sooner or later, a black presidential candidate will emerge in the United States who will campaign, not as a black — emphasizing links with races and ideologies abroad who have nothing in common with American blacks either in outlook or standard of living — but as a traditional Democrat or Republican, just as Mr Edward Brooke, of Massachusetts became the first black senator since Reconstruction. (He was a Republican.) This is also how the first woman president will emerge. She will be a Republican or a Democrat first and a woman second — just as Disraeli became the first Jewish Prime Minister, and Mrs Thatcher the first woman Prime Minister, for reasons other than their gender.

## Ancient heritage

From Mr Harold Fassnidge

Sir, Lady Bowyer-Smyth's *cri de coeur* about the plight of Fitchwick (March 10) is heard with sympathy here in Bradford on Avon. But at least Fitchwick does not have, as we have, two major routes (A363 and B3109) passing through the very town centre.

In this small town of narrow, winding streets created by Saxon outcrops we have a constant stream of vehicles of weights up to 38 tons and, because it is believed to be the only safe river crossing in the area, on over the 13th-century town bridge.

We are told by the county highway authority that a by-pass road is planned, but that, as they are starved of funds by central government, it is unlikely to be built for a very long time.

Unless Government policy is changed radically ancient historic

## Perilous parking

From Mrs Sydney Lipworth

Sir, To pay £2 an hour for parking in the centre of London (report, March 22) does not seem outrageous and is very much in line with private garage charges. But it should be pointed out that many residents' parking areas are empty during the day and that too few parking meters are provided for visitors.

My car was clamped, although it was the only car parked on a long stretch of an empty residents' parking area. I had looked, in vain, for a free parking meter for nearly an hour.

The anomaly is that these residents' parking areas which are often empty during the day, and not available to visitors, are free for all after 6.30 p.m.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN DE REDMAN  
(Project Armistice, Birmingham Heraldry Project),  
Room B1, Adderley Block,  
St Peter's College,  
Salley,  
Birmingham, West Midlands.  
March 21.

## Slightly confused

From Mr A. P. S. de Redman

Sir, Mr A. J. Maddock (March 21) escaped quite lightly.

I was, on one memorable occasion, designated Project Armistice. Not as bad as it might have been but several of my staff looked at me with new respect.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN DE REDMAN  
(Project Armistice, Birmingham Heraldry Project),  
Room B1, Adderley Block,  
St Peter's College,  
Salley,  
Birmingham, West Midlands.  
March 21.

## Too little, too late?

From Mr John Stud

Sir, The death of Patrick Steptoe, a most outstanding medical scientist (Obituary, March 23) prompts a question concerning the selection for this country's formal honours. Probably nobody this century has changed the practice of gynaecology so fundamentally. Apart from the pioneering work on *in-vitro* fertilisation he also established laparoscopy as a routine clinical investigation. This was not achieved through major universities or teaching hospitals but from a small district general hospital in Oldham.

His other contribution of demonstrating that excellent original research could be carried out within the private sector is an achievement which should be in time with the philosophies of this Government. It is sad that a belated and woefully inadequate honour was awarded only during his terminal illness.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STUDD,  
King's College Hospital,  
Denmark Hill, SE25.  
March 22.

## Jobs for women

From Miss S. C. Newton

Sir, Lady Plowden (March 18) questions the ability of the Manpower Services Commission's forthcoming adult training programme to meet the needs of women returning to the employment market.

The White Paper, Training for Employment, in no way implied that women had "special defects"; rather it takes particular account of individuals and groups who can be at a disadvantage in finding and benefiting from suitable training.

Women who have been registered as unemployed for six months or more will be fully eligible for the new programme. In addition the White Paper gives the assurance that provision for women returning to the labour force will be at least maintained; it is notable that women in this

## Ending the long Iranian agony

From Mrs M. Farangis

Sir, As an Iranian who, before leaving Tehran 10 days ago, had shared the anguish and fear of the Iranian people under missile attacks and aerial bombardments, I was quite distressed to read "Steps to end war of the cities" (Letter, March 17).

This group ("Friends of Iran") allows itself to speak on behalf of the people of a country in which death and destruction in street corners is a daily routine and the people, like walking corpses under constant threat of missiles and bombs, spend all their time in long queues to obtain food and other necessities. These people have neither time nor patience to wait some more years for a modified version of the Security Council resolution 598 (as the passage of 598 itself came after seven years of death and destruction).

My compatriots inside Iran do not enjoy the luxury of living safely, unlike those who are living outside. Their only desire is an immediate end to the war, which is costing them the life of their loved ones.

Credible opposition leaders and opinion-makers who have mass support among Iranian people, such as Shapur Bakhtiari, are all in agreement with resolution 598, not because it is the best and most just way to end the war (as the question of Iraq's responsibility in attacking Iran should also be considered after the cease-fire), but because it is, at this time, the quickest option available to end this madness.

## German elections

From Dr Herbert Pilch

Sir, While I agree with your analysis (report, March 22) of the "Späth factor" in the state elections of Baden-Württemberg, I am concerned at your summary description of the protest vote as "ultra-right extremism".

I had the honour to lead, in the election, the Democratic Ecology Party, which polled an overall total of 1.5 per cent. I personally won 4 per cent in my constituency. This has nothing to do with right-left extremism.

The issue on which we have been campaigning was the destruction of our natural environment, including our fellow creatures and even unborn babies. We are thereby, ultimately, destroying ourselves. Chernobyl was a warning on the wall.

Our 900 members and sympathizers have been conducting a devoted, self-financed campaign against heavy odds. One of our most serious obstacles was the near-total silence imposed upon us by the media (including your distinguished paper). Given these conditions, we have scored fairly well.

I am sure you will sympathize, dear Sir, with my disappointment at being lumped into a single bag with right-wing extremists.

Yours faithfully,  
HERBERT PILCH,  
D-7801 Schönenwald,  
Im Bachmühl 4,  
West Germany.  
March 22.

Yours faithfully,  
SANDRA NEWTON,  
Directorate of Adult Training,  
Manpower Services Commission,  
Moortown,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

## Gallop and Gaitwick

From Mr D. E. L. Parsons

Sir, A little after your correspondent Lady Longley's time (March 22), in the early 1950s the Surrey Union Foxhounds were hunting gorse coverts towards what is now the east end of the present runway at Gatwick.

The noise of an aircraft was heard, but nothing was seen as it came from the direction of the rising sun. Suddenly it was upon us, about to land on the chain-link runway, and several of us had to use heels on our horses to avoid being run into.

Yours faithfully,  
DERICK PARSONS,  
Chapell House,  
East Chillingham,  
Lewes, Sussex.  
March 24.

## Verb. sap.

From Mr Maurice Halperin

Sir, Philip Howard's "word-watching" must cause concern to Robert Robinson and the *My Word* production team as he rapidly exhausts the stock of little known words.

What concerns me is not that I rarely know the words in question but sometimes do not even know those he offers as possible definitions.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE HALPERIN,  
83 Nottingham Terrace, NW1.  
March 25.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Case for a thriving forest industry

From Lieutenant-Commander G. G. Marten

Sir, The new arrangements for supporting forestry have been acclaimed by conservationists. I hope this will lead to a better understanding amongst the general public of the value to the nation of a thriving forest industry based on a steadily expanding conifer acreage.

Perhaps the greatest constraint on our future prosperity is going to come from an adverse balance of payments. Imports of wood and wood products cost us over £5,000 million annually.

Since 1919, and more particularly since 1945, we have been building up our commercial forests and now, as they mature, we are starting to reap a much-needed economic benefit.

New industries using home-grown timber are replacing im-

### Televising Commons

From Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP for Caernarfon (Plaid Cymru)

Sir, On Tuesday evening (March 29) the Commons will be asked to set up a select committee to facilitate the introduction of television to the Commons Chamber.

However, contrary to assurances given when the House decided on the principle of allowing in the cameras the Government are now not going to ensure that all the party groupings in the House will be properly represented on that select committee.

A committee of 21 members is being proposed and I understand Mr. Dafydd Wigley, MP for Caernarfon and the SNP, told to "lose a coin" to choose a representative.

The proposed composition of the select committee, however, bodes ill for the whole experiment, for those in power appear unable to keep their word in ensuring fair play for the smaller parties in the procedures associated with introducing television.

Or is it that certain influential people, opposed to televising the Chamber, are using the frustration of the smaller parties as a backdoor method of trying to kill the decision to televise the House?

Yours etc,  
DAFYDD WIGLEY,  
House of Commons.  
March 25.

### Budget and conscience

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, Mr Sydney Shenton (March 22) exemplifies the simplistic approach to questions of public finance which treats all earnings and income as being at the disposal of the State, to be shared out as the State thinks fit and in accordance with its ideas of "morality".

He never appears to indicate that the question whether it is "moral" to confiscate three fifths of part of someone's earnings is even worth consideration. But what is even more important is the inevitably damaging result of trying to run the economy in accordance with his concepts of "morality": 1977 is only the most recent example.

For experience shows that high rates of personal taxation discourage and low rates encourage economic growth. During the 1950s and 1960s reducing rates of tax not only produced a growth in tax revenue, but a growth in the economy.

The same process can be seen today under Mr Lawson's stewardship. And it is, of course, only out of this increase in wealth-creation that resources can be found for the social improvements we all want to see.

Moreover such cuts in taxation help to prevent high earners and rich rentiers moving abroad, e.g. to the USA, with its much lower taxes on income, or to the Channel Islands.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BOYD-CARPENTER  
House of Lords.

### Mark of distinction

From Mrs Jean Ingham

Sir, It is interesting to read of the "remarkable events" which have befallen Mr Bevin (March 16) since his purchase of a bowler hat.

In my capacity as an official tourist guide, conducting groups of people from all over the world round the colleges of this beautiful university city, I am constantly stopped by my guests, who wish to enquire about, photograph, be photographed with and even hold conversations with the college porters going about their daily duties, formally attired in well-tailored coats and bowler hats.

The hats are a cause of wonder, admiration, curiosity and even amazement. One member of a French group asked if the wearer was indeed "a real English lord" and was incredulous when told that the wearer was a porter, a person held in great respect by us guides, and who helped the colleges control the several millions of foreign visitors who visit them each year.

Yours sincerely,  
JEAN INGHAM,  
18 Glebe Road,  
Cambridge.  
March 17.

ports. The saving to our balance of payments is already great and growing every year. If the impetus to commercial planting is lost much potential prosperity for the British people will have been allowed to dribble away into the sand.

Continued investment from outside the land-owning community is likely to be a vital component of further expansion. We may see those much reviled high earners who have remained in this country and put their money into forestry superseded by foreigners.

Around the benefits that accrue from a stake in a great forest industry are better understood, and the new grants may look attractive.

Every government since 1945 has supported forestry expansion. The present target is 80,000 acres per annum. As this far-reaching attitude bears fruit it is time for a wider appreciation of the prosperity it is helping to bring to us all.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE MARTEN,  
Criche,  
Wimborne, Dorset.  
March 23.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 29 1839

Although, according to our Paris Correspondent, writing in 1938, the Eiffel Tower was originally given a life of 20 years, it still stands, a metal monarch of all it surveys. Next year it will become a centenarian.

### EFFEL TOWER'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

VERLAINE'S "INVERTED TORCH-HOLDER"

From Our Paris Correspondent

The fiftieth anniversary of the Eiffel Tower will be celebrated in Paris today with all the ceremony due to what has long since become an essential part of the Parisian landscape.

It has had many critics in its time. Verlaine contemptuously dismissed it as "an inverted torch-holder", and even before it was built, a group including such personalities as Melançon, Brunot, Victorien Sardou, Alexandre Dumas, and Guy de Maupassant published, after seeing the plans, a violent protest against what they described as "a dissonance to Paris and a ridiculous iron tower dominating Paris like some gigantic and mobile factory chimney." And for some years after its construction the Tower remained a constant subject of controversy. But today even those who are not ready to accept its artistic merits would be hard to say the word which would reduce the lofty fabric to scrap iron.

The Tower was built to form the "clou" of the 1889 Exhibition by Jean Eiffel after he had been approached by a young engineer named Koechlin, who is still living, with detailed proposals for its construction. As a feat of engineering it loses nothing by comparison with modern standards, and considered from the aspect of the technique of its time, it deserves to rank as a really remarkable achievement.

### WIRELESS AND TELEVISION

It would be an error to suppose that the Eiffel Tower merely provides an unrivalled view of Paris and the surrounding country. For many years there has been a meteorological station at the very summit, and since the introduction of wireless telegraphy advantage has been taken of its great height to install a powerful transmitter. Lately, too, a television station has been included, though it is not in regular operation, and since the range of television reception seems largely to be governed by the distance of the transmitter above the ground, this station should give extremely good results.

Nor have its advertising possibilities been entirely neglected. The late M. Citroën, of motor-car fame, held the publicity rights for some years, and rigged up an imposing system of electric lights by which flames seemed to creep up from the base of the tower to its very summit. He varied this later by a gigantic clock-dial of electric bulbs and a huge thermometer. The contract came to an end, however, and for some time the Tower was left in peace. During the last Paris Exhibition its three platforms were used for a series of remarkable fireworks displays which could be seen for many miles around, while enormous loudspeakers discoursed stentorian music which, on the whole, was less ear-rending than might have been imagined.

Its great height has inevitably attracted some suicides, though the number has been relatively low.

It is true that the original life of the Tower was set at 20 years, but it has had successive reprieves, and thanks to periodic repainting seems to have suffered no damage from its long exposure to the elements. Indeed, there is a reason to doubt that the beloved "inverted torch-holder" will go on mocking the ghost of Verlaine for many years to come.













THE FENDI SISTERS HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN LONDON. (THEY TOOK OFF IN ROME YEARS AGO.)

Fendi, the Italian design house, is internationally-renowned for its innovative and beautifully elegant furs, leather goods and fashion. Now, Fendi has launched a provocatively daring fragrance that captures the vibrance, the sophistication, the passion that is Rome. Naturally, the fragrance is only to be found at London's most exclusive store. And to launch it, Alda, Anna, Carla, Franca and Paola, the five Fendi sisters, are making a personal appearance in our Perfumes

Department on the Ground Floor from 11.15 am to 1 pm on Wednesday March 30th. You can also find Fendi handbags in the Leather Room on the Ground Floor and the Fendi Collection in the International Designer Room on the First Floor. Shown above: Dark Brown and white suit, £510. Ciao.

*Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Telephone 01-730 1234.*

**Harrods**  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

MAN

STUDENTS TAKE PLACET  
ON THE WORLD STAGE

[illegible]



# FASHION by Liz Smith

## MANSION HOUSE POLISH

**HOW DO FOUR WOMEN, WITH THE SHOPPING POWER OF FORTY, ORGANIZE THEIR OFFICIAL WARDROBES? A LADY MAYORESS AND HER DAUGHTERS SHOW THEIR WORKING STYLE**

**Y**ears back, when I was a minion in *Vogue's* fashion room and was left to man the phones at lunchtime, a frequent query to be fielded was for advice on what to wear to official engagements. "I am wearing a green strapless dress to a Mansion House dinner with green shoes, green stole, green bag. What colour should my gloves be?"

Then, as now, it is simply *pas chic* to be slavishly colour-matched from top to toe. Strict etiquette dictates that shoulders should be covered for a white-tie dinner. Gloves, *de rigueur* of course, could be green if something else in the outfit were toned down. Otherwise, white or any neutral shade like ivory, putty or black would do.

A supply of white kid gloves in three lengths was a present that particularly delighted Lady Spratt when she moved into Mansion House last November as wife of the present Lord Mayor of London, Sir Greville Spratt. With their traditionally generous gift to the incoming Lady Mayress, the Worshipful Company of Glovers had relieved Lady Spratt of at least one of the numerous items on a shopping list of a scale faced perhaps only by a royal princess setting off on an official tour.

**I**n addition to the wardrobe of evening dresses required for the formal dinners she attends every night of the week, many of which are the white-tie occasions in Mansion House that she hosts herself, Lady Spratt has had to plan clothes for a diary of official engagements that can tot up to a staggering 10 or 11 on any weekday - and this spanning an entire year.

Add to these three beautiful daughters who play an important role in the family's official social life, and you have four women with a shopping power equal to forty. How do they cope?

Today, Lady Spratt is opening the doors of Mansion House, and of the opulent Egyptian Hall within, for a celebration of British fashion, attended by the Duchess of York. London's top designers will present their spring and summer collections, and proceeds will go to Action Research for the Crippled Child, one of several children's charities for which the Spratts have crusaded for 20 years and of which the Duchess of York is president.

A black ottoman suit from Chelsea Design for the afternoon show; a pink and orange shot taffeta crinoline from the Emanuel's couture collection for the evening gala: these are just two of the many decisions Lady Spratt has had to make as she faced her wardrobe armed with her diary this week.

**H**ardy Amies, Bellville Sassoon, Chelsea Design, Emanuel - these are some of the British designers favoured by so many of our royals and other stylish women in the public eye. And it is their evening dresses that billow out of the extensive wardrobes in the private apartments in Mansion House. Lined up to go with them are the satin shoes from Gamba which the Lady Mayress herself dyes to match.

An introduction to Maureen Baker, a key designer in Lady Spratt's wardrobe, was made by her predecessor. A favourite of the Princess Royal and successive incumbents of Mansion House, Maureen Baker's clothes have a certain colourful impact yet manage to avoid an intimidating high-fashion image.

A housekeeper takes care of the day-to-day upkeep of Lady Spratt's expanding wardrobe. A housekeeper visits Mansion House once a week. For a day of official engagements she wears a hat. "I think that when people invite us out it is fair to repay the compliment by dressing up," she says.

Each daughter leads her own busy life. Joanna, 29, the eldest, is an interior designer, married with a two-year-old daughter. Georgina, 27, is a property agent and Alexandra, the youngest at 23, works in public relations for a financial company in the West End. Most of their evening dresses and smart outfits, which they swap around among themselves, are made by Micheline Montague-Scott, a designer based near the Spratt family home in Haslemere. It was she who made Georgina's wedding dress. The bride's mother wore blue by Maureen Baker.



### STUDENTS TAKE A PLACE ON THE WORLD STAGE



When the City of London presents British fashion at the Mansion House today a team of 12 students from the Royal College of Art will share the limelight. Their range of curly coats and suits in wool will sell in stores around the world. The college Common Rooms became a showroom during the recent Fashion Week. Trade was brisk in the short coats dreamt up by the students; they ranged from fashionable tents (Lacroix's influence) to some interesting new cocoons. The lines are manufactured by Strelitz. Look out for them after the summer sales in Harvey Nichols or Browns in London. Lisa Stirling in Manchester. The RCA Collection is sponsored by the International Wool Secretariat.



**MAIN PICTURE:** from left, Alexandra Spratt in taupe Prince of Wales check linen jacket with powder pink silk lace fichu collar and lace skirt, £835, Catherine Walker for Chelsea Design Company, 55 Sydney Street, SW3. Brown and white shoes, £89. Pled à Terre ROUGE, 19 South Molton Street, W1. 14 Sloane Street, SW1. Georgina Webb-Bowen in cherry and white cotton cloqué collarless jacket and skirt, £705, Catherine Walker for Chelsea Design Company. Shoes, £89.95. Rayne, 15-16 Old Bond Street, W1. Jenners, Edinburgh; Frasers, Glasgow. Lady Spratt in navy and white spotted grosgrain dress, £359, Bellville Sassoon, 73 Pavilion Road, SW1. Patent shoes, £79.95. Rayne. Joanna Forbes in pink and red rose-printed black moiré jacket and black crêpe skirt, £716, Bellville Sassoon. Shoes, £52.99. Hobbs, 37 Brompton Road, SW3.

**LEFT:** Alexandra Spratt in navy and white hound's-tooth check suit; jacket, £95; skirt, £49, by Windsmoor; Selindges, Dixons & Jones, Harvey Nichols, Harrods, Straw hat, £166, Philip Somerville, 11 Blenheim Street, W1. Shoes, £89.95. Rayne. Georgina Webb-Bowen in white wool cardigan suit braided in scarlet; jacket £205; skirt, £99; by Windsmoor; stockists as above and Windsmoor branches. Shoes by Rayne, as above. Red straw breton, £300, by Graham Smith for Kangol, Harrods. All jewellery by Ken Lane, 30 Burlington Arcade, W1. Gloves from a selection by Dents at Selindges; Alders; Owen Owen. Hair by Kathleen Bray for Clifford Stafford. Make-up by Nikki Whelan. Photographs by DAVID ANTHONY.

### PEOPLE

#### Scots and sun spots

Twinning Glasgow to Saint Tropez takes a leap of the imagination. Matched, however, in their slavish dedication to fashion, they are the two hot-spots of style that our pioneering designer Katharine Hammett has targeted for the opening of two new shops. The Sun Set in Saint Tropez will get their chance to stock up on Hammett's classic bush shirts, Lycra swimsuits, skintight pedal pushers and cotton drill miniskirts from next Saturday; and next week a glass-fronted shop opens in Glasgow's new Princes Square shopping mall, which is done up in the Vienna Secessionist style. The shops are the spearhead of Hammett's expansion campaign. As well as the three existing shops (two in London, one in Guildford) owned by Aguecheck, Hammett plans to open other outlets in central London and is herself decamping from the gloomy cave she constructed in her Islington headquarters to spacious new offices in the West End.

#### Think Pink

Any colour will do - as long as it is pink. The three Mullin brothers (Peter, James and John) are aiming to get more men to apply this variation on the Henry Ford principle of colour selection when buying a shirt. Their classic Thomas Pink shirt, made in Dublin and which comes in more than 50 colours, can now be ordered by post. The first Pink catalogue out on April 5 includes a choice of 30 or more of their generously cut classics in Oxford weaves and two-fold cotton poplins, plain or boldly striped, each priced £32. For a catalogue call 01-581 9375.

#### Action time

Fashion designers are focused on children's charities this Easter. First the fashion gala in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child (see left); and now plans to raise £17,500 for Help a London Child from the sale of T-shirts. Martin and Melanie Lent, who have cornered a niche in the high street with the lively, youthful clothes launched five years ago under their Pamplounaise label, have produced 3,500 T-shirts stamped with the Help a London Child 88 slogan; these will sell for £5 each this week and next, through the Anonymous shops dotted around London (Brent Cross, Croydon, Kingston, Ealing, as well as Oxford Circus and Torrington Place, W1), as well as in the foyer of Capital Radio's HQ.

### VICTORIAN TAPESTRY CATS BY KAFFE FASSETT



Kaffe Fassett's new tapestry kit is based on the most popular design from his bestselling book *Glorious Needlepoint*. Ever since the book was published people have asked us why his Victorian cats were not available as a kit. The answer was that in the original design over thirty colours were mixed and it was too complicated to produce even as a chart. Since then he has managed to reduce the number of colours to 26 without losing the subtle shading in the faces, and we now have one of the most beautiful and appealing tapestry kits he has ever produced. The cats themselves are in subtle shades of mid and dark brown, beige, and ochre golds. They both have bright dramatic eyes: china blue for the cat on the left and green for the cat on the right, and they are set against a face patterned background of cream on grey. The bow is in soft pinks. Measuring 12½in x 17in the canvas is printed in the full 26 colours on 10 holes to the inch canvas. It comes with enough wool from the Rowan tapestry range to complete the design in either half-cross or tent stitch, and the kit comes complete with canvas, yarn, needle and clear instruction leaflet. At £24.95 it represents outstanding value. Use FREEPOST - no stamp needed.

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## THE ARTS 1

## TELEVISION

## Heart strings

"The heart is excellent", pronounced a subtitled heard in *Horizon* (BBC2), and then went on to commend the liver in similar terms. Since the gentleman in question was speaking in French, one could have been forgiven for imagining that one had stumbled into *Take Six Cooks*.

This was in fact a Canadian heart surgeon, and it was pure coincidence that the chief object of his interest resembled a poulet de Bresse. Plucked from the corpse of a girl in Newark, New Jersey, the organ was whisked off in a plastic lunch-pail to Montreal, and there replaced a diseased heart. The recipient died later that day.

This award-winning documentary had many of the elements of cheap drama: the ready-made heroes in white coats; the ailing patients and their anxious families; the sprinting down long hospital corridors.

But the full-colour jolts of its operating theatre sequences were less harrowing than the agonized tension of waiting for suitable donors, with bulletins from the American hospital coming in like stabs of execution. "Heart transplant cases don't complain much," it was explained — and one could see why.

The second transplant featured here was a success, and we last saw its survivor gleefully swinging a baseball bat to public acclaim. The film's editor had already done his bit to lift the gloom by editing his scenes to white.

Barry Norman wrapped up *Talking Pictures* (BBC1) with clips of some very expensive drama, notably the spy-movie *Over the Top*, for which Sylvester Stallone was paid \$12 million. And why (as Norman claims to have said) not?

Hollywood has always loved extravaganzas that seem to be doing well in the channel more than in the cinema, which is true, but the aim of a more widespread but culturally narrower audience. Studios proved by multinational will inevitably be regarded as just another chunk of the corporate empire.

The parade of megalomaniacs claiming not to be influenced by public taste was handsomely counterpointed by shots of market researchers peering out likely punters over the telephone. Given a staple choice of the chance to watch a re-run of this entertaining series, I would have to tick "probably".

## Martina Cropper

● The veteran singer Adelaide Hall will be in concert with her own musicians at the Dominion Theatre, London, April 14-17. London-based since before the Second World War, Adelaide is particularly associated with Duke Ellington's "Creole Love Call".

Riccardo Muti returns to the Festival Hall tonight, for the first time in two years, conducting unknown Cherubini. He talks to Richard Morrison about his musical passions and his plans

## Restrained lyricism

Riccardo Muti was in south London, putting the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a specially-gathered professional choir through two stiff rehearsals in unknown Cherubini. Less than 48 hours earlier he had been at La Scala, Milan, where — as music director — he conducted a new production of *The Flying Dutchman* (praised by John Higgins on this page last Friday). He returned to Milan for a weekend of more Wagner. Now he is back in London, conducting at the Festival Hall tonight for the first time in two years.

"Normally I make sure my schedule avoids this sort of thing," says Muti. "But I wanted to come back to London. In a certain way this is my second home."

What enticed him back was a further chance to champion Cherubini, who, along with Scriabin, is one of Muti's more surprising musical passions. In his decade as music director of the Philharmonia he recorded both of Cherubini's Requiem, and the Mass for the Coronation of Charles X. "That is the one I performed last year in the Vatican in front of the Pope."

Tonight, London hears more Cherubini coronation music — or, more accurately, would-be coronation music. "It is the mass written for the coronation of Louis XVIII but never performed, because Louis died."

"I like Cherubini. As I explained to the orchestra, he is a very

unusual composer, because his music has nothing for effect. It's a mixture of Italian lyricism and classical restraint. To achieve that combination is very difficult."

Muti may now be fated in his homeland and in America, but he built his reputation and his expertise in London, where in 10 years he turned what was the struggling New Philharmonia Orchestra into a great ensemble. "It was, I felt, like my instrument at the end."

So what does Muti say to those conductors who maintain that it is impossible to be a proper music director in London? "What was possible there are difficulties here."

"In Philadelphia, for instance, where I have been music director for eight years, the Academy of Music is the orchestra's home."

"They don't go round from place to place, as in London. This morning we rehearsed in the Festival Hall, this afternoon in Henry Wood Hall — and we were lucky. Sometimes it is a school hall."

"And another thing about London. You should have an entire orchestra made members of the orchestra — 100 per cent, not 80 or even 90. You can put the best players in the world together for an event, and you still don't have an orchestra."

"We are building a new hall. It is a big revolution because, for Philadelphia, the Academy of Music is the Glorious, the Temple. But we are collecting the money, and by

1992 the new hall will be finished.

"I have also put a big accent on contemporary music. Last year we celebrated the bicentennial of the American Constitution by commissioning new pieces from six American composers."

"And now I perform at least one opera a year in concert. That doesn't sound revolutionary to you, but you must remember that in 45 years under Ormandy the Philadelphia never once played an opera. Great symphony orchestras must play opera."

Muti is also proud of opening general rehearsals at Philadelphia to students. "I decided the Academy of Music was too untouchable. I have opened the doors of the temple. Now the Philadelphia Orchestra is not just a divine entity, but an instrument that everyone can hear."

Will he be throwing open the doors of La Scala? "Well, in Milan we have an interesting situation. Everywhere opera houses have financial problems, but the La Scala theatre has, in the last few years, been in a wonderful economic situation."

So Muti has planned big projects. First, the orchestra: "they have improved tremendously in the last year, and are playing this *Dutchman* — not the favoured repertoire of Italian orchestras — really quite well."

Muti's tactic here has been simple: rehearse till players drop. "For *Don Giovanni* I had ten

reading rehearsals, just with orchestra. If you want to make an orchestra better, you have to work."

Then there is repertoire. "Years ago La Scala had no Mozart at all." Muti, who unashamedly admits to seeing *Amadeus* four times, was clearly not happy with that. Next March he will do the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas together in repertoire.

The season also includes two other prized causes: the uncut, six-hour version of Rossini's *Guil-laume Tell* ("there is nothing you can throw away") and Gluck's *Orfeo*.

He has plans for a large-scale project, involving musicologists and young singers, to work towards "an authentic Italian way" of doing Monteverdi. And there will be more Wagner.

He returns to Covent Garden in the early 1990s for a new production of *I puritani*, and may be tempted to the Festival Hall again if a projected Scriabin series with the LPO goes ahead.

But Muti, at 46, increasingly sees himself as a man with a mission. "The young generation is coming back to real culture — live theatre and music — perhaps because television has been so disappointing."

"But we are ready with the right answers? If we lose this moment, in five years we will be back where we were 20 years ago."



No woolly thoughts: London is in some senses Muti's second home

## Electronic soap opera

Il faut passer par les images  
Théâtre de la Ville

Il faut passer par les images, by François Billeloux, is one of those rare pieces of so-called avant-garde theatre that, 25 years on, has kept pace with its label.

Indeed, Lucie Fittler's latest revival of this philosophical French precursor to soap opera scenarios, makes one wonder how Jean-Louis Barault managed so successfully to direct his first performance, back in the silicon chipless Sixties. According to Billeloux, the work is "total theatre". And that is exactly what Romanian born Fittler's ingenious, typically over-the-top direction achieves.

Ased by Radu and Mirna Borcescu, monumental video-screen design, a vast "video-wall", a flotilla of camera-men and a chorus line of controlling computer screens, Fittler's simultaneously projected backdrops, an electronic story-board which sequentially outlines the action in a single film, and eye-ball popping close-ups of the characters' faces, soul-searching soliloquies.

## PARIS THEATRE

He also uses cinema screen techniques to reinforce the visual impact of dramatic novelties such as the silent descent of a glass lift bearing the mummified body of a late husband — a deliciously perverse post — or the moment the action suddenly disappears into a hole in the stage. It is a technology a production for theatregoers with necks, eyes and brains that are able to swivel at Wimbledon Centre Court speed.

Constructed by Billeloux as a dramatic opus in five movements, the play takes its title from a Jean Joubert quote, the implication being that those who make it through life's clouds get to see the light. The central character, Claire Verdure-Balade, is a woman who, like a butterfly, who claws and pines her way into the bourgeoisie.

Radi and mirages, she manipulates her diverse offspring by keeping a tight hold on their tangled metaphorical cords. Until, one stormy cloudy day, she loses her mind in attempting to find her "raison d'être", and dismembers the entire family.

By Billeloux, reducing it to a handful of input diamonds.

Billeloux uses the superficial banality of his characters to throw into relief the cankers of modern society. This production proves the work to be as prophetically observant of life in the Eighties, as it was when it was written in 1963.

The fragmented, tableaux construction, had unashamed symbolism, reveals "one of Beckett, while there are glimpses of Obaldia in the use of surrealism to reveal the extraordinary through the ordinary. Technically, however, it reads Billeloux, shaped by Fittler.

Heading the 40-strong cast is Michelle Marquis as the ageing haute couture alley cat. She dominates the stage with a quiet strength that serves to highlight the pathos of the rest of the performances.

She is strongly in her own right, the key figure in the movement. Here, a seductive devoid of all electronic electronic gimmicks, her superb performance and the forward security of the text is at its most incident.

## Diane Hill

At the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, Billeloux's work is a masterpiece of modern theatre.

## Fine and dandified

## GALLERIES

Exhibition Road  
Royal College of Art

Works on Paper  
Marlborough Fine Art

Jean Cocteau  
Albemarle Gallery

For a carefully considered and structured show (which it undoubtedly is), *Exhibition Road*, at the Royal College of Art until April 22, is remarkably difficult to make consistent sense of. It is easy enough to enjoy and find interesting, but by the time the pattern remains elusive.

That this is so is no doubt very much to the credit of the Royal College as a teaching institution. For what the show does, but to do so to give a panoramic picture of the work of pupils during the greater part of the 20th century, and to show the work of some of the most important artists who have gone through the College's training process.

This is a politically significant choice, when we are constantly hearing of Jocelyn Stevens' determination to move the College away from its "traditional" preoccupation with the Arts and Crafts movement, and to pursue a more "contemporary" direction. This show in fact provides a timely reminder of how many among the country's leading artists (and sometimes international earners) have come out of this nowadays somewhat devalued discipline.

It would be depressing if we could see too much consistency in the work on display, since consistency and a recognizable house-style usually come from an over-dominant teacher and over-obsessive pupils. What the Royal College has always sought to do, to judge by this evidence, is not so much to tell its painters what to say, as to train them in the use of the languages available, and leave the choices up to them.

Some of the artists represented seem to have reached their characteristic style and discovered their characteristic subject-matter very early on: Patrick Caulfield's student work, for example, is immediately recognizable. There are others who have developed unrecognizably, notably those like Jack Smith who have passed over from kitchen-sink realism to abstraction.

Most of the juxtapositions, inevitably, show something between slavish consistency and total revolution. It is fascinating to observe Malcolm Morley developing from the mild, Camden-Towny atmospheres of "The Richmond Hill below the Wick" (1954) through the photographic style of "SS France" (1974) to the looser, more expressionist style of 1980's "Camels and Goats". Or to see the continuity of subject-matter and radical change of handling in John Bellany's work between 1967 and 1974.

Or to guess at what can have happened to Bill Jacklin's work between his eccentric student assemblage "The Visitation Card" and his recent "Washington Square at Night", we probably would not imagine an intermediate point of minimalism if we did not know John Brailey and Carol Weight are astonishingly consistent. Alex Jones, R.B. Kitaj, and David Hockney, meanwhile, developing Richard Smith and Bill Culbert totally changed.

All of this is both amusing and enlightening. But there are also genuine discoveries or rediscoveries. Among the most recent graduates, Peter Gough impresses with his "Mark the Riddled Gorge", a throwback to Paul Nash or early William Roberts, which is in no way merely pastiche. (Coincidentally, anyone curious about how Gough has developed since the Royal College can find out, until next Monday, from an impressive open-air show at the "Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford".)

Of earlier graduates, it is particularly interesting to see again John Martin's "The Death of Nelson after Daniel Maclise" (1932), a student copy transformed into a major work which boldly anticipates much that was going to happen later in Pop Art and even our present Britain.

It is also satisfactory to encounter, possibly for the first time, the work of such undervalued forgotten painters as Charles Cyril Mahoney or Evelyn Dumber or Leslie Cole (both the latter, perhaps significantly, found their own voice in the Second World War and seem to have been a bit adrift ever after). And the early section dealing with the birth of modernism in Britain is full of good things. A pity that the show as a whole comes over as more of a grab-bag than a clear statement about the Royal College in all its admirable diversity.

Some additional evidence on the subject may be gathered from the show of *Works on Paper by Contemporary Artists* at Marlborough Fine Art until April 22. At least six of the gallery artists featured, Frank Auerbach, Bill Jacklin, Andrzej Jackowski, R.B. Kitaj, Thérèse Oulton and Paula Rego, have been through the RCA and appear also in *Exhibition Road*.

It would be very difficult to imagine a more diverse bunch, united only in their remarkable talents and by the fact that they are all continuing markedly to develop. This is particularly notable in the case of Bill Jacklin, whose recent New York drawings, like "Mother and Child", have a new intensity and strength of

design which bodes well for his upcoming major show in May, and Paula Rego, whose new drawings continue the mysterious, sinister explorations of human relations (sometimes calling on animal symbolism) which distinguished her last painting show.

It is also interesting to note that Thérèse Oulton, whom I had always thought of as an artist who needs a lot of space to realize her vision, can come across on a very small scale, and that Andrzej Jackowski, in his small watercolour sketches, shows an unexpected affinity with the painters of Die Brücke.

This week offers the last chance to see at the Albemarle Gallery a fascinating small show of drawings by Jean Cocteau, which covers in 27 works his whole graphic career (surprisingly extensive for someone who was, after all, primarily an artist in words) from 1922 to 1962, and happily reminds us that he had more at his command than the rather stereotyped Orpheus profiles of his later years: witness the wonderfully crisp and expressive illustrations for his own novel *Thomas l'Imposteur*.

John Russell Taylor



Pupil's eye view of pupil: "The New Cabinet" (detail), by R.B. Kitaj at the Royal College of Art

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**LONDON DEBUTS**

Andrew Stannard reversed the usual order of events by becoming professor of cello in London, after much orchestral experience, before giving a debut recital.

This was consequently something of a testimonial at Wigmore Hall, the performance distinguished in particular by his musical perception in a work like Debussy's Cello Sonata, played with fastidious poetry of phrase and technique.

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Noël Goodwin



## THE ARTS 2

David Robinson reports on the Budapest showcase of the latest offerings from the socialist but increasingly free-spoken Hungarian film industry

## Home truths

Of all the cinemas of socialist Europe, that of Hungary continues to maintain the strongest international profile. In part this has been achieved by a skilful P.R. operation: every year the entire production of the previous 12 months, successes and failures alike, is fearlessly put on show for foreign observers, in a national film week.

For those who have followed it assiduously over the twenty years since it was founded, the Budapest film week has provided an invaluable monitor of the ebbs and flows of cultural politics in the socialist world. Over the years Hungarian cinema has always tended to be the most outspoken in exposing internal problems; and so on the surface has been least affected by the knock-on effects of Soviet glasnost.

For all that, this year's crop of films proved the most interesting for a long time, even though feature production has dropped from the yearly average of 20 to around a dozen.

The numbers have been made up by documentaries; and a number of these are revolutionary in the frankness with which the errors and sins of recent history are attacked. Two films for instance deal with the labour camps of the Stalinist era — hitherto a subject only for the most thickly veiled allusion.

"We have to tell our children a new tale", say the brothers Gyula and János Gulyás, introducing their film

*In Keeping with the Law*. In this they gather together a group of survivors of the camps set up in the Fifties on the Great Hungarian Plain. Many of them admit that this is the first time they have overcome the trauma to speak about the terrors of arrests and deportation without charges, and release without rehabilitation: about the humiliations and beatings and tortures.

The poet György Faludy, made by the husband-and-wife team of Géza Böszörmény and Livia Gyarmathy, is a feature-length interview portrait of the writer, who has lived in exile for most of the period since he was released from one of the worst labour camps, at Recske, and who has been unsparing in his criticism of the present regime. Faludy's vividly related recollections of the camps are horrific and heroic.

Easily the most remarkable film of this year, however, is *Magyar Stories*, which vindicates its director Pál Schiffer's notion of the "documentary feature". Elements of pure documentary are assembled as the components of a historical fresco. Seven old men from the same village recall their lives in public affairs during the turbulent years since the war — years in which their individual fortunes rose and fell, when they took it in turns to be top dogs and the oppressed. From these seven insignificant lives, Schiffer composes an extraordinary, Tolstoyian epic of

mid-20th century history, and the betrayal of ideals and illusions.

Zsolt Kézdi-Kovács' fiction film *Cry and Cry Again* breaks more new ground by intimating that the period of "consolidation" that followed the rising of 1956 was not the watershed that official history has generally claimed it to be.

Other documentaries examine the shortcomings of social services (Alajos Paulus' *Maze*), petty corruption (József Magyar's *Our Little Affairs*), the drug problem (László Vitézy's *Floating Free*). Another feature film, András Kovács' *Rearguard* looks critically at the effectiveness of recent electoral reforms, which make multiple representation for any parliamentary seat obligatory.

Hungary's current efforts at co-production fall rather flat. Pál Sándor, who had an international success with *Daniel Takes a Train*, stars Marcello Mastroianni and Hanna Schygulla in *Miss Arizona*. Photographed by one of the cinema's great cameramen, Elemér Ragályi, the film

often achieves dazzling spectacle, but is betrayed by a rambling and inconsequential script.

Péter Gothár, whose dazzling *Time Stands Still* won a large cash prize at the first Tokyo Film Festival, has invested the money in *Just Like America*, a fantasy about a Hungarian tourist on the loose in New York and involved with gangsters, hippies, junkies and other figures of contemporary American romance. Muddled and weighed down with show-off visual effects, the film suggests that Gothár is as bewitched by the American dream as his hero.

Much more modest, György Sponjás' *Mr Universe* captures more pitifully the seductive fascination which America holds for Europeans. Two Hungarian dreamers trek to Hollywood to try to persuade Mickey Hargitay (one-time Mr Universe and husband of Jayne Mansfield) to star in their film. Sponjás and his players have a wonderful off-the-wall comic style; and Hargitay, a living Hungarian success story, is charming.



Village chroniclers: four of the storytellers from *Magyar Stories*, the new Hungarian film by Balint Magyar and Pál Schiffer

## Who is Sylvia?

Taiwanese actress Sylvia Chang (below), in London for a season of her films, talks to Anatol Lieven



"Superintendent Ho — one tough lady!", a massed chorus of Hong Kong police chiefs exclaim approvingly in the film *Aces Go Places*. At first sight, Superintendent Ho in real life is the least tough-looking figure one could possibly imagine.

Sylvia Chang, the Taiwanese actress whose role in this amazing comedy thriller confirmed her as one of the biggest stars of the overseas Chinese cinema, is very slight, beautiful in an unorthodox, almost childish way, diffident in manner, and looks much younger than her 35 years. Only a more decisive note in her voice when speaking on the telephone in Chinese, the occasional set of her jaw, and a slightly piratical grin recall the gun-toting superintendent.

The season of her films, at the National Film Theatre, concludes tonight with a special preview of her latest: *Sour Sweet*, which is to open in London in the autumn. Directed by Mike Newell (*Dance with a Stranger*) from the novel by Timothy Mo, this is Sylvia Chang's first film in English. The story, however, is set entirely within the world of the Chinese community in London.

Had there been problems rendering this world into the English language and in terms comprehensible to an English audience? Not really, she replied. "Mike simply asked us to do it our way." Concerning the language, there had been discussions of what would sound most natural, with some idiomatic expressions being dropped, despite their authenticity, for being "too much like Charlie Chan". It was in small things like this, she thought, that Bertolucci had missed the mark in *The Last Emperor*.

Her character in *Sour Sweet*, the budding matriarch of the family, is also a "tough lady", certainly much stronger than her bewildered husband. "But she is also a very traditional Chinese woman, very gentle on the outside, holding back," Chang observed. "Not on top of things. Tough on the inside — they have to be."

Had she herself tended to be cast for rather masculine roles? Not at all, she replied. Before taking the part of Superintendent Ho in Hong Kong, she had generally played soft romantic parts in

Taiwanese melodramas. She has also acted in a number of films of the excellent Taiwanese new wave, dealing largely with the problems of an alienated and rootless youth (one such, Edward Yang's *That Day on the Beach*, has been part of the NFT season).

"Very cool, underplayed acting," she summed up. "I'd really like to do something that would release my energy. Last time I was in England I saw *Betty Blue*. That is what I call energy!"

Acting in both Taiwanese new-wave and Hong Kong commercial cinema, Sylvia Chang spans two very different worlds. Overseas Chinese popular cinema continues to be dominated by kung fu films of an undeniable exoticism and a ludicrous badness. The art films, on the other hand, do not begin to reach a mass audience.

She suggested that a major task facing directors in Hong Kong and Taiwan is to find a "centre point" between the two. That, however, is still far off, though she thought that another of her films, *Shanghai Blues*, might be a step in the right direction.

She speaks of the contemporary new-wave film-makers of mainland China with a certain awe, as people who have been shaped by experiences beyond her ken, and by the vast size of their country. A sense of the claustrophobic smallness of Taiwan was very apparent in her words: "Always raining. Very like England. Only more polluted."

Within Taiwan, however, Sylvia Chang has been able to carve out a place of distinction both as an actress and more recently as a director, particularly dealing with women's experiences in the new Taiwan. This has taken toughness, in a general cinematic atmosphere of such low quality.

"When I first started, we had to learn everything about acting for ourselves. I used to spend a lot of time in the dubbing room, just to watch films. When I saw a lot of Chinese films I felt embarrassed. So I wanted to make my own."

• The NFT's Sylvia Chang season ends tonight with a screening of *Sour Sweet* at 6.30pm (information: 01-928 3252).

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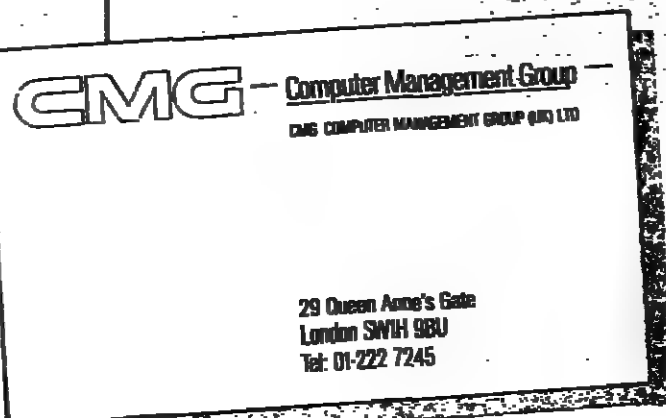
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# An eye on your money



To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the Audit Commission is today holding its first conference of local government in England and Wales at London's Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre



Brent Town Hall in north-west London was sold as part of a £30 million package, then leased back by the council, an accounting device since outlawed by the Government

## Looking for lower rates

David Cooksey, left, the commission's chairman, who is halfway through his three-year term of office, says his biggest task over the next 18 months is to ensure that more real savings are made by local authorities.

The commission has made a lot of cost-saving suggestions in its value-for-money studies — potential savings of £2 billion have been identified by the commission's special studies unit in areas such as housing maintenance and purchasing and supply, and, taking those reports to local level, auditors have already made £500 million of "detailed recommendations" to individual authorities. But those recommendations now have to be

chased up and turned into reality. The private sector has improved productivity tremendously over the last few years, says Mr Cooksey. Now the public sector must do the same.

If they do make savings they have an option. Mr Cooksey said: "Their policy having got better, value for money can be either to redirect the savings into other services to the population, in which case they will be serving their communities better, or to reduce the cost to the ratepayer."

"If they got the same productivity improvements that the private sector has got, they could certainly reduce the rates."

The Audit Commission is only five years old, but the principle of a public audit — an external check on how local rates are spent — goes back to the early 17th century when such compulsory rates were first levied.

Various systems of checking were devised, the most lasting being the District Audit Service, established in 1846 to audit the accounts of districts of the Poor Law Unions, the forerunners of the present system of local government in England and Wales.

In 1972 authorities were given the right to choose between the district auditors or a private firm of accountants. The system was all right so far as it went, but there was growing concern about its independence. How could the auditors be truly independent both of the authorities (which chose them) and of the Gov-

ernment, which financed the District Audit Service out of fees charged for the audits?

The Local Government Finance Act 1982 solved both problems. It set up the commission with the power to appoint external auditors. The commission, which is chaired by David Cooksey, chairman of Advent, a venture capital company, got an initial grant of working capital from the Department of the Environment, but is now self-financing, getting its income from the audit fees.

It has between 15 and 17 members, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment in consultation

with the Welsh Secretary. Though the Secretary of State appoints them, they are not really answerable to him, but formally at least, to Parliament, before which the annual report must be laid.

Unlike the National Audit Office (the watchdog body which scrutinizes Whitehall and whose independence is guaranteed by its relationship with Parliament's Public Accounts Committee), the commission does not have any such clear-cut guarantee of independence.

There were a lot of protests when the commission was being set up that it would be no more than the Govern-

ment's creature, set up to do the will of the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine, and beat authorities on the head.

Cliff Nicholson, the commission's deputy controller, said: "No one in local government could believe that Michael Heseltine was going to establish something touching on them that wasn't to their detriment."

If that was the expectation, it was misplaced. Under Section 27 of the Local Government Finance Act, which set up the commission, it can look at central government's actions to see how they affect the

authorities' ability to achieve value for money.

The first such report, which looked at the block grant system, was highly critical of central government. It said that the system for paying rate support grant to local government was so deeply flawed and subject to such frequent changes that it was preventing local government achieving value for money in its services.

Another report, on capital controls, was also very critical. Mr Nicholson commented: "Building on the first one, the second one really did cement the view in local government that the Audit Commission has got a mind of its own."

## Lessons in the 'three Es' for local authorities

Howard Davies, chief executive of the Audit Commission, which appoints external auditors for local authorities in England and Wales and tries to make sure that the authorities are giving (and getting) value for money, has all the right instincts for the job.

In previous incarnations he was a special adviser to Nigel Lawson on monetary policy and in the 1970s private secretary to the then British Ambassador to France, Sir Nicholas Henderson, a position from which he resigned after several months having decided it was "the most frustrating occupation you could imagine."

"I thought the embassy was over-stuffed, under-worked and occupied in almost entirely futile tasks," says Mr Davies, who is not an accountant but a management consultant.

Mr Davies — official title, Controller of Audit — has been in the job just over a year, having succeeded John Bamham, now director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. Both men are alumni of the management consultants McKinsey & Co and Mr Davies says that the commission's central organization in London is built very much in the McKinsey mould.

The commission's principal tasks are to appoint the auditors who audit the council's books and to try to ensure, through those auditors, that councils are keeping their eyes on the "three Es" — economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

So how has the commission, now five years old, fared? Mr Davies says that to make that judgement you need to take three figures into account.

First, the potential saving of £2 billion which the commission has identified through a series of special studies of all sorts of services, from refuse collection to highways maintenance. That calculation is based on asking what would be the saving if every authority could be as efficient as the top quartile.

Second, the way those numbers are really reflected at local level. It would be wonderful, says Mr Davies, if everybody could be as good as the best quartile, but there are plenty of very genuine reasons that it cannot be the case. So what are the real potential savings which auditors can identify in their authorities and how do they aggregate? Adding up the "detailed recommendations" made to individual authorities gives a total of just over £500 million.

Third is what has actually been achieved. That comes to £80 million, says Mr Davies, which compares with the £9 million a year it costs the commission to do its value for money work.

Mr Davies thinks the £80 million is rather small, but it is rising very fast. He said: "From now on we will see much bigger numbers... I would expect the percentage of what we find locally that gets implemented over a five-year period will

## Best of public and private

probably get to a good 50 to 60 per cent.

"On the evidence of what we've seen so far, we could expect that at least half of what we find locally gets implemented in a five-year horizon. So if that £500 million goes up to £800 million or £1 billion (which I think is very likely over the next two years), then by the end of the next five years it should be £500 million a year."

The commission and the auditors cannot in the end of course force councils to act on their value-for-money recommendations. They use publicity to try to chivy authorities into line. Headlines such as Council Squanders Rates Money are the kind most councils try to avoid.

"People have wrestled with this notion for some time," said Mr Davies. "Should there be a penalty for wasting money? I don't think that there should be and in any



Councils are now committed to bringing spending into line with income

Howard Davies  
Controller of Audit

case if there were I'm sure you'd want to lock up the people responsible for the Concorde project before you locked up people in local authorities."

Mr Davies talks, with all the fervour of a man who as a government adviser spent a lot of time working on privatization policy, of the 19th-century-founded District Audit Service being "liberated" from the Department of the Environment in 1983.

The commission, which appoints auditors from the District Audit Service and the private sector, is very non-Whitehall in outlook. It decides its own pay and conditions.

While it leans heavily towards the private sector — the proportion of audits carried

out by private firms of accountants as opposed to the District Audit Service has doubled to 30 per cent since the commission was set up — Mr Davies does not believe it could ever be accused of being Thatcher's poodle.

The commission, he said, includes influential local Labour politicians who ensure that Labour views are taken into account.

But, more than that, the commission is actually about revitalizing the public sector rather than demolishing it. More than two-thirds of the auditing work is still done by the District Audit Service which is, by definition, in the public sector.

"What we've done is given a bit of the public sector a new lease of life, because it was a moribund organization in the Department of the Environment. They were under-resourced, under-staffed. They'd never recruited a graduate in 20 years. There was no training apart from straightforward accounting training... So it's not by any means a totally privatizing sort of structure."

Mr Davies said the commission tries to bring together the best of both the public and the private sectors. The approach to working methods is drawn from the private sector as are pay and ideas on motivation. But that is balanced by an understanding of the importance of the public service ethic — an acceptance that the bottom line is not to be evaluated only in financial terms.

"We have to bring those two things together, because a straightforward totally hard-nosed management consultancy type approach to all these things would just not work. It would be totally counter-productive, the councils just wouldn't listen to you."

The commission must not only be non-political, it must be totally independent.

It does, of course, get involved in some political battles, although not directly or on any one side. It is there in the middle as others throw their missiles. It gets dragged in when others' battles start to involve local authorities doing things which are either financially imprudent or unlawful.

One of its prime concerns recently has been to bring a small clutch of authorities such as Brent, Hackney, Islington and Liverpool, which had been thumbing their noses at the system, back towards financial sanity.

Some authorities had gambled that a Labour government would be returned in the last election and would bail them out, said Mr Davies. He explained: "They were still, up to nine months ago, planning major new spending programmes — job-creation schemes, effectively — when there was every chance that they weren't going to have the money to do it."

"Since then there's been a massive change of direction in these councils and they are all now committed — say they are committed — to setting legal budgets and to bringing their spending into line with their income."

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### Who's who

Members of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales

David Cooksey, chairman (Advent Ltd), Lady Elizabeth Anderson, Harry Axton (Bristol Estate plc), John Barratt, Sir Peter Bowness (London Borough of Croydon), Ian Combs (County Hall, Norwich), John Gannell (West Yorkshire Enterprise Board), Noel Heworth (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy), David Lees (GKN), Professor Andrew Lickierman (London Business School), Eric Meade, Roy Shaw, Murray Stuart (Metal Box), Sir Robert Wall (Bristol City Council), Clive Wilkinson (Birmingham Repertory Theatre).



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# Sanction a council should fear most

The powers of the local government auditor range from the informal word in the ear of responsible officials that some part of their work needs to be tightened up to quasi-judicial powers which may ultimately lead to elected representatives being surcharged, ordered by the courts to make good money that has been unlawfully spent and even disqualified from elected office.

The most widely used power is the so-called "management letter" — a memorandum to members of the local authority summarizing any significant points that have arisen out of the audit.

This could cover anything from the value-for-money exercises — investigations undertaken at every authority in the country into some selected issues, such as rubbish collection or energy policy — to issues particular to the individual authority, like, for example, how a new computer is functioning.

One step up is the public interest report. This introduces the sanction which public authorities perhaps fear most — adverse publicity. The embarrassment that such reports cause locally can bring about swift action from authorities.

But there is a growing worry that wielding the big stick in this way may be a bit less effective than it used to be with at least a small group of "persistent offenders".

Cliff Nicholson, the commission's deputy controller, says: "If you were to take any one of the difficult London boroughs, you'd probably find that they've had a couple of public interest reports each year for the last three years and tend to view them as 'another annoying bloody letter from the auditor'."

In fact, says Mr Nicholson, the commission has been concerned that some authorities are ignoring the public interest reports, so it is writing to them to urge action.

The first two, both within the last couple of months, were Brent and Lambeth,

whose accounting arrangements have been in disarray, says Mr Nicholson. The controller of the Audit Commission, Howard Davies, wrote to Brent warning it that it must take urgent action to put its finances in order.

"That received a lot of publicity and Brent are still smarting about that," says Mr Nicholson. "So the public interest is still a weapon."

These are essentially administrative powers, but the auditor also has a range of quasi-judicial powers.

Section 19 powers: Under Section 19 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 the auditor can, if he finds something in the accounts which he considers contrary to law, make an application to the court for a declaration that the item is contrary to law. If the court finds it is, it can order financial restitution by those responsible and even disqualification.

Section 20: This is a duty rather than a power. The auditor, if he finds that there are losses caused by wilful misconduct, must certify the amount of those losses as being due from those responsible.

The prime examples of Section 20 action are the Lambeth and Liverpool cases where the auditor said the authorities were late in making their rates, which amounted to wilful misconduct and

caused losses to the authorities. The auditors' certificates, in each case involving surcharges of more than £100,000, were upheld by the courts and the individuals named in the certificate had to pay off the money and were disqualified.

These are the toughest powers the auditors have but a new Local Government Act gives them controversial powers to intervene much earlier.

At present, says Mr Nicholson, the auditors have powers to deal with illegality and losses caused by wilful misconduct, but those powers are "after the event." He adds: "If something unlawful happens, in the fullness of time, the auditor will pick it up and deal with it."

"These new powers enable the auditor to get in there at the time that it's happening and draw things to an early conclusion. So if it comes to the notice of an auditor that an authority is about to do something which will result in an unlawful item in the accounts, he can actually issue a prohibition order saying: 'You cannot do that.'"

If, for example, the Inner London Education Authority, threatened with demise, were to try to fight its abolition, as the Greater London Council did, with a publicity campaign, it would be unlawful. But until now, the auditors could only act *post hoc*. With the new powers, the auditor would be able to intervene before the event.

Auditors, by and large, are living quite happily with their routine duties, but some are uncomfortable at times with the job's quasi-judicial aspects.

Tom Walls, director of public sector services at Price Waterhouse, which is now heavily involved in local authority auditing, is not sure that the quasi-judicial powers and duties lie happily with the auditors' other duties.

The auditor may establish a sound relationship with the client, which leads to a good audit, only to see that relationship badly damaged when he does a quasi-judicial bat.

# Where savings were spotted

Among the special studies carried out by the commission in its first five years are surveys into:

■ **Cash-flow management.** The report showed that local government as a whole could save about £100 million a year by implementing such practices as issuing all rate demands by April 1, limiting the use of legal staff for debt collection, introducing computerization and paying employees monthly by bank transfer.

■ **Vehicle fleet management.** This 1984 report concluded that savings of up to £140 million a year could be achieved through better vehicle management. It suggested, among other things: pooling vehicles between departments, using contract hire where it was cheaper than in-house provision, standardizing vehicles to one or two makes.

■ **Social services for the elderly.** Though few elderly people rely on the local authority for social services care of the elderly still accounts for 45 per cent of social-services expenditure in the typical local authority.

The commission, worried that the system would be unable to cope with the increasing demand which seems likely in the next few years, suggested a number of ways in which resources could be used much more effectively, allowing 15 to 20 per cent higher service levels to be supported within the present expenditure of about £1 billion a year.

The recommendations included better targeting (in four of the sample authorities half or more of spending on community services was allocated to those who obviously did not need it), and improving coordination between health, housing and social services departments on such things as sheltered housing.



School meals and the police: The commission's annual profile tells an authority how cost-effective such services are



# Value for money on the rates

One of the main duties of the Audit Commission and its auditors is to promote value for money in local authority spending.

At the simplest level it provides each authority with an annual statistical profile. The profile looks at every service provided, from school meals to highway maintenance, and tells the authority whether it is better or worse than comparable authorities in the level of service provided and its cost.

This gives the local authority a feel for its overall performance and highlights areas that need special attention.

The commission also does what it calls "special studies." It chooses a number of areas of activity a year and examines them in detail to try and find out how the best authorities provide that service and what the less good authorities need to do to bring themselves up to scratch.

In its first five years it has looked at everything from non-teaching costs in secondary schools (where it reckons up to £250 million a year could be saved if every authority came up to the standard of the best) to refuse

collection (potential savings of £20 million to £30 million a year).

Once the special study has been published, the commission compiles a detailed practical guide for auditors who then, normally the year after the special study, go to their own authority, determine how it measures up against the best in that activity and recommend specific action.

There has always been a mix of rather downbeat subjects like energy conservation and surprisingly controversial ones like care of the elderly.

This year the commission's research ranges from the police and educational administration to the way a council's direct labour department handles building maintenance.

The studies are supposed to look at what commission officials call the "three Es" —

economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In the more technical areas, like vehicle fleet management, this is a relatively straightforward number-crunching exercise, but in the provision of services, like education or policing, the last of the "three Es", effectiveness, can be far more difficult to judge.

Cliff Nicholson, the commission's deputy controller, is very conscious of this difficulty. For many local authority services, he says, you cannot measure effectiveness with any precision against some sort of numerical scale.

There are large areas where even the professionals themselves are totally lost. (How, for example, do you measure the effectiveness of education?) But that ought not to be an insurmountable barrier.

"If you take the rather more

simplistic, and I think more useful, line regarding effectiveness as to whether programmes are achieving their intended effects, then I think the commission and the auditors can actually do something. They can consider what was intended, how those considerations were arrived at, and they can consider what has been achieved."

Once the special study has been completed the auditors, equipped with their special audit guide, go to their individual authorities and try to encourage them to implement its findings locally.

"We second professionals on to our staff to do the study", says Peter Brokenshire, the commission's director of management practice, "so it then has credibility with the other professionals in the field who can be reassured that there isn't just an idiot accountant going out asking damn silly questions."

It can take three to five years for major recommendations to be implemented, says Stephen Evans, a senior manager in the special studies unit, but although the commission is only five years old, real savings are already being made.

# Keeping the auditors happy

Eight key success factors needed to run a well-managed council:

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- Respond to its electorate;
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- Assign clear management responsibilities;
- Train and motivate people;
- Communicate effectively;
- Monitor results;
- Adapt quickly to change

Sources: Audit Commission's management paper No.1, The Competitive Council

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN.

## BOOKING KEY

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### FILMS

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**BARFLY (18)**: Charles Bukowski wrote the script for this humorous, semi-autobiographical look at life in a seamy Los Angeles bar. With Mickey Rourke as a self-styled poet of the bottle and Faye Dunaway as his equally alcoholic companion, a first American film from the Swiss-French director Barbet Schroeder (99 min). Cannon Channel (01-352 5089). Progs 2.35, 6.10, 8.50, 10.30. Cannon Channel (01-352 5089). Progs 2.35, 6.10, 8.50, 10.30. Cannon Channel (01-352 5089). Progs 2.35, 6.10, 8.50, 10.30.

**CRY FREEDOM (PG)**: Richard Attenborough's bumper bundle of exciting spectacle and liberal sentiments, with Kevin Kline as journalist Donald Woods, drawn into the case of South African activist Steve Biko (Denzel Washington) (158 min). Screen on the Green (01-352 3820). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30. Warner West End (01-379 0791). Progs 1.35, 4.55, 8.00.

**FATAL ATTRACTION (18)**: A suspense thriller (Cinema) about a woman's revenge on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller (119 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30. Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE FOX AND THE HOUND (U)**: Visually stunning but dramatically dull Disney cartoon from 1981, about the adventures of a fox cub (Ed Asner) and a dog cub (Tim Allen). Decca (01-723 2011). Progs 1.45, 3.55, 6.05.

**THE LAST EMPEROR (18)**: Bernardo Bertolucci's gorgeously photographed epic tells the story of the last emperor of China, who died in 1911. China's last imperial ruler who died to become a model Communist citizen. With John

**LOVE, PETER O'TOOLE (182 min)**: Peter O'Toole (182 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**MOONSTRUCK (PG)**: Should Cher play safe and marry Danny Aiello, or follow her heart and go for his brother, Nicolas Cage? Norman Jewison took the Best Director prize at the Berlin Film Festival for this winning comedy-drama (102 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE PRINCESS BRIDE (PG)**: William Goldman's send-up fairy-tale, filled with inoffensive charm by director Rob Reiner. With Cary Elwes as the hero out to rescue his beautiful princess (Robin Wright) (95 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**WHITE MISCHIEF (18)**: Glossy account of a cocky and murderous American lawyer's "happy valley" in the South, with Gene Hackman, John Cazale and Charles Dancy. Michael Radford directs (105 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**WISH YOU WERE HERE (15)**: David Leland's poignant comedy about a teenage girl's sexual adventures in a drab seaside town. Directed by David Leland (92 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**WITH A VENGENCE (PG)**: Dianne Evers' back again, continuing the saga of the woman who was the first woman to be a judge in the United States. Directed by Dianne Evers (92 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE BEST OF FRIENDS (PG)**: Dramatic comedy about a woman who is the first woman to be a judge in the United States. Directed by Dianne Evers (92 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE BROWNING VARIATION (PG)**: A woman who is the first woman to be a judge in the United States. Directed by Dianne Evers (92 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE COMMON PURSUIT (PG)**: Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underdog friends: splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Gielgud, Stephen Fry, John Gielgud. Directed by Simon Gray (92 min). Cannon Channel (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

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**EXIT ENTRANCE**: Play by Aidan Mathews, a self-out in Dublin's Abbey Theatre, an ageing couple review their lives, a younger couple look forward in hope. Decca Warehouse, 41 Earham Street, WC2 (01-240 8230). First night tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8.00pm; mats Wed and Sat 5pm. £5-£10.

**HAPGOOD**: Puzzling new Tom Stoppard play, spies, physics and misunderstandings; with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and Neil Patrick Harris. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych WC2 (01-352 5089). Tube, Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mats Wed 2.30-5.30 and Sat 4-7pm. £5-14.50.

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## Stepping out of the shadows

Liszt, the greatest pianist of the 19th century and perhaps of all time, said Alkan (above) was the only person in front of whom he was nervous of playing. Based in some ways Liszt's successor, considered Alkan, with Chopin, Brahms, Schumann and Debussy, one of the five major piano composers since Beethoven. Alkan (real name Charles Henri Valentin Morhange) was the unsurpassable virtuoso with no audience, the great composer who was never performed. He led a reclusive life in Paris, with Chopin as a close neighbour at one stage. Those few who heard him, described his playing as "powerful, brilliant, severe", and performance of his larger works remains a

scary task, for they include some of the most difficult music ever written for the piano. A central figure in the Alkan revival has been Ronald Smith, who has long performed the composer's most demanding pieces, lectured and written two books about him. At the Wigmore Hall today, on the 100th anniversary of his death, the composer will be shown in a new light as Smith joins violinist James Clark and cellist Moray Welsh in the first London performances of Alkan's main chamber works, the Duo, Cello Sonata and Trio. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30pm, £3-£6.

Max Harrison

## OPERA

**SALOME**: André Engel's new production of Strauss's opera for Welsh National Opera. St Charles Mackerras conducts a strong cast led by Stephanie Stappert, Philip Jowitt and Robert Tear. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**THE SIBYLLA**: Small scale but effective travelling production by Opera 8. Tonight Stephen Barlow conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

**BITTER SWEET**: Jim Jagger's slick production of Noel Coward's masterpiece reaches Glasgow, with Anne-Marie Dwyer, Robert Tear and Robert Tear. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 0791). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 10.30.

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## CONCERTS

**THE MISSION**: Gothic rockers. Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham NG1 2JF (01-525 4747). 7.30pm, £5, for two nights.

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**MARTIN TAYLOR**: A solo performance by Stephen Grappell's urbane guitarist. Caedmon Hall, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead (091 477 3478) 8pm, £3.

**DON WELLS**: The robust tenor player appears at the head of his quintet. 100 Club, Oxford Street, London W1 (01-536 0533) 8pm, £4.

## ROCK

**THE TEMPTATIONS**: Boasting two original members (Otis Williams and Melvin Franklin) and a catalogue of Motown gems like "Get Ready", "Ball of Confusion" and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone". Hammersmith Odeon, Odeon, Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081) 7.30pm, £7-£9.50.

**THIN WHITE ROPE**: London debut for hard-rocking Californian roots band, appearing with poet John Cooper Clarke. St George's Hall, 240 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (01-263 4581) 9pm, £3.50.

**ROBERT PLANTS**: Fronting a young band and plugging a respectable album, Now And Zen. Royal Court, 100 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-379 0791). 7.30pm, £5-£7.50.

**ASWAD**: New kings of British reggae, still at No.1. Hammersmith Odeon, Odeon, Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081) 7.30pm, £7-£9.50.

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**ARM, HISTORY AND NATURE**: In the 13th century restored manor house will be held on most days throughout the season, beginning today with Edwardian cookery. Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Church Lane, Oxfordshire (0845 72501) today until Nov 6, 11am to 5pm. £3-£5.30pm, £1.50, child £1.20.

**FREELANCE 88**: Primarily a fair for freelance illustrators, graphic designers, photographers and fine artists, but of interest to anyone wishing to know more about the discipline of a career in any of the disciplines. Bar and light refreshments. The King's Cross Hall, Camden Centre, Euston Road, London WC1 (01-263 4581) tomorrow, Thurs 12 noon to 7pm.

## TALKS

**THE PASSION**: Lecture by three guest speakers. National Institute for Research in Music, Room 14, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-935 3321), 1pm, free.

**TATE LECTURE**: Simon Wilson on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood - tales of love, death and religion. Tate Gallery, 100 Whitehall, London SW1 (01-813 1313), 1pm, free.

## WALKS

**JEWISH GHETTO ALLEYS AND OLD COCKNEY QUARTERS**: Whitechapel tube, 11am, £3.

**LEGAL LONDON: LAWYERS, COURTS AND CASES**: Meet Temple, 11.15am, £3.

**POLITICAL LONDON: CONVENTION AND PARLIAMENT**: Meet Embankment tube, 2pm, £2.50.

## BOOKINGS

**FIRST CHANCE**: RESPONSE: Two weekends of contemporary music with London Sinfonietta and Ars Nova. Contemporary music, talks, films and workshops, including premieres by Holger Matthies (Scandinavian), Philip Glass (Company), and other contemporary works. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800) credit card, May 8 and 20-22. Postal booking open from April 5.

**ITALIAN COMEDY: THE GOLDEN AGE**: Film season reflecting changing social mores in Italy from poverty of post-war years to 1960s through to the 1970s and 1980s. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800) credit card, May 8 and 20-22. Postal booking open from April 5.

**ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL**: General booking opens today for 41st Festival (June 10-26), including Britain's first opera *Paul Bunyan*, *Chalkdust*, *Chalkdust*, and other contemporary works. Aldeburgh Festival, High Suffolk, Suffolk (01728 2935).

**LAST CHANCE**: BILLY BIRD: Last performance of this season of Tim Albery's ENO production, with Thomas Allen, Philip Langridge and Richard Van Allan. Chichester Festival, Chichester, Sussex (01243 8288) credit card.

**CHAIN STEPHENSON**: Liverpool-born artist, who learned sculpture on a kibbutz, uses bronze, wood, terracotta and metal to depict biblical and animal themes. Sternberg Centre for Judaism, Sternberg Centre, London SE1 (01-946 2288), ends today.

**IDENTITY**: Hangings, prints, poetry, video, painting, drawing and sculpture by women from Tower Hamlets, both individuals and groups. Works for sale. Chislehurst, London E6 (01-681 4519).

**Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Felix Croft; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Steve Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Walks and Talks: Penny Osborn; Other Events: Judy Froese; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.**

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

**Knipperdrolling** (c) A disciple of Bernard Knipperdrolling of Münster, the German Anabaptist fanatic and polygamist active 1533-35, hence transferred to a telegenic or any nutty fanatic.

**DEFENESTRATION** (a) Usury, synonyms with *denial* and *denial*, from the Latin *defenestration* to involve in *defenestration*, *denial*, *denial*, *denial*.

**RES NULLIUS** (b) The legal jargon for property that does not and cannot belong to anybody; the Latin literally means "nobody's thing".

**STRAW BOSS** (c) Any assistant chief, subordinate director, or 24-c, said to be from the organization of a thrashing crew, where the boss would superintend the grain, and his Number Two the straw; perhaps from the Dutch *stroedekkerbos*.

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## BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceejay AM**.  
6.30 **Edgar Kennedy in Brother Knows Best** (b/w). 6.55 **Weekend**.  
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 **Regional news and weather**.  
9.00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air** with Eamonn Holmes. 9.25 **The Filmmaker**.  
10.00 **News and weather** followed by **Going for Gold** (r). 10.25 **Country's Best**. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by **Play School** (r).  
10.50 **The Garden**. According to St. Patrick, Part two and Jesus goes into the mountains and ordains the 12 Apostles. 11.00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air** with Eamonn Holmes.  
12.00 **News and weather** followed by **Daytime Live**. Magazine series. Includes national and international news at 12.00, 12.30, 1.00 and 1.30. 1.30 **Regional news and weather**.  
1.50 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. 1.50 **Neighbours**. In the Robinson household Nikki and Laura plan their respective futures. 1.50 **Going for Gold**. Sunday general knowledge quiz. 2.15 **London Landing**. Gary begins divorce proceedings. 3.00 **Copies**. Gary Morgan takes the three-day event. David and Lucinda Green. 3.25 **The Clothes Show** examines the state of British hat design. 3.50 **Docudrama**. 4.10 **Laurie R. King**. 4.15 **Jackpot**. 4.30 **Thurs** with part two of *All Poyson's Mrs. Pepperpot* (r). 4.35 **Yogi Bear**. 4.40 **Knowhow** presented by Sal, Ann De Caires and Mark Satter. 11.35 **The Gospel According to St. Mark** (r). 11.45 **Weather**.

## BBC2

- 8.55 **Open University: Photochemistry - Colour**. Ends at 9.30. 9.00 **Ceejay**.  
11.25 **The Mollie**. Gilbert and Sullivan's two-act opera starring William Conrad, Clive Renshaw, Kate Flowers and Anne Collins with the Ambrosian Opera Chorus and the London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Alexander Faris (r).  
1.30 **Mop and Saff** (r). 1.35 **King of the Rocket Men** (b/w). Episode two of the 12-episode off-the-wall comedy. 4.45 **Popeye Classics** (b/w). Shakespearean Spinach and Willywinn is a Mystery. 2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Sea Hawk**. Magazine series for the hard-of-hearing (r).  
2.25 **Look, Stranger**. A portrait of John Dodgson of the English Place Names Society (r).  
2.30 **Small World**. Eric Thompson is at Oxford Manor the home of Walter Harper who has one of the world's best private collections of models depicting the history of land, sea and air transport (r).  
3.00 **News and weather** followed by **Life Film: Genetic Engineering**. A documentary about the work of the six resident composers of the Radiophonic Workshop. 3.40 **Holiday Outings**. Kathy Taylor spends a weekend at the Pegasus Academy of Snooker in Basingstoke (r).  
3.50 **News**, regional news and weather. 4.00 **Adie Archives**. The third in the series of clips from vintage home movies including, this afternoon, film of Sir Harry Lauder singing in 1930. He is on St Kilda during the 1920s and a 1930s World Country Music Show. 4.30 **Life Film: Genetic Engineering**. A documentary about the work of the six resident composers of the Radiophonic Workshop. 4.45 **Popeye Classics** (b/w). Shakespearean Spinach and Willywinn is a Mystery. 5.30 **Gardeners' World** from the Institute of Horticultural Research, Liphams (r).



Ralph Richardson with Sonia Dresdel (BBC2, 9.00pm)

- 8.00 **One Man and His Dog**. The first of a series of BBC television international Sheepdog Championships. Jim Grierson of Scotland meets England's Charles Cutler. In the brace championship Gwyn Jones from Wales meets John Casey of Ireland. 8.45 **Architecture at the Crossroads**. This film of 10 programmes on contemporary architecture examines examples of places designed as homes for people (r). 7.25 **Cartoon Two**. *The Silence of the Bats*, an award-winning animated film from Brazil. 7.30 **Television with Klaus Fomer and Annette O'Dwyer**. The week's news as seen by viewers of ORF, the Austrian television service. 8.00 **Russell Harty's Grand Tour**. (Coast) (see Choice). 9.00 **Film: The Fallen Idol** (1948, b/w) starring Ralph Richardson and Michele Morgan. Drama. Based on a Graham Greene short story, about an embassy butler who is accused of murdering his wife. The Ambassador's son tries to help the man but only causes him further problems. Directed by Carol Reed. (Coast) 10.35 **Newsnight** 11.20 **Weather**. 11.30 **Open University: North Westminster Community School**. Ends at 12.00.

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** includes reports from Florida with celebrity interviews. In the studio, news, weather, sport and current affairs at 6.30 and 8.00. 8.00 **Wadey** from Disneyland in Florida. 8.25 **Thames News**. 9.30 **Lucky Ladders**. Word game. 10.00 **Santa Barbara** 10.25 **News headlines**. 10.30 **The Time**. 11.00 **Piece... Mike Scott** chairs a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Rainbow**. Learning made fun with puppet. 11.25 **Thames News headlines**. 11.30 **Open British War's Way**. Tom Weller, continuing his tour of Scotland, visits Apple Cross and Loch Toulton. 12.00 **Gas Street**. Music and chat show presented by Suzi Quatro and Vince Hill. 12.30 **Out**. Game presented by Matthew Kelly. The guest is Frank Carson. 1.00 **News** on with Julie Somerville. 1.20 **Thames News**. 1.30 **Quincy**. The investigative pathologist examines a dead kidnapper's car for clues that might lead to the identity of his victim (r). 2.30 **The Treatment** includes the truth about overnight slimming pills. 3.00 **The White Stuff**. Thriller writer John Lush explains his fascination with the Orient. 3.25 **Thames News headlines**. 3.30 **The Young Doctors**. 4.00 **News** on with Julie Somerville. 4.15 **The Moonlight**. Episode 2 (r). 4.25 **Who's Next**. Children talk about their likes and dislikes. 4.35 **Bella's People**. David Bellamy visits red beds in Norfolk and meets a mysterious mariner. 4.50 **Do It With Norman**. Tipton, Sarah Fild and Paul Ryan. 5.15 **Connections**. 5.45 **News with Alastair Stewart**. 6.00 **Thames News** followed by **Crimestoppers**.

## CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 **Just 4 Film**. The puppet Bob introduces three programmes for children - *Dangermouse*, *Make Music Fun* and *Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings*. 12.30 **Business**. Financial and business news presented by Susannah Simons. 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series for children. The guest is Lyle Harris. 2.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Nicholas Woolley. Jackie James Mates and Jackie Ashley review yesterday's debates in both Houses and look forward to those scheduled for today. 2.30 **Film: Men of Two Worlds** (1946) starring Eric Portman and Phyllis Calvert. Drama about a Europeanized black African who is summoned back to his homeland by the local district commissioner. On his arrival he discovers that his life is under the control of a white doctor who is preventing the people from being moved to an area free of sleeping sickness. Directed by Gerald Chapman. 4.30 **Film: The 1970s**. Moving general knowledge game presented by William G. Stewart. 5.00 **Bewitched**. Vintage American comedy series starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick Sargent. 5.30 **The Industrial Revolution**. Programme two of the six-part series following the cycle of the bee-keeping year through the history of bee-keeping; hears the experiences of the man who keeps the most bees in Britain; visits a 16th-century garden with beehives; and explores the scenes of the country's biggest honey farm. (Oracle) 6.00 **Land of Hope**. Episode six of the 10-part drama series following the lives of one Irish-Australian working class family from the late 1800s to the 1970s. Through the story of the Quinn family the series traces the stormy development of the Australian Labour movement. 7.00 **News** on with Peter Sissons and Sue Carpenter. 7.30 **Comment** followed by **Weather**.

## VARIATIONS

- BBC1** WALSLEY 8.30pm-8.55pm *News* 8.55pm-9.10pm *News* 9.10pm-9.25pm *News* 9.25pm-9.40pm *News* 9.40pm-9.55pm *News* 9.55pm-10.10pm *News* 10.10pm-10.25pm *News* 10.25pm-10.40pm *News* 10.40pm-10.55pm *News* 10.55pm-11.10pm *News* 11.10pm-11.25pm *News* 11.25pm-11.40pm *News* 11.40pm-11.55pm *News* 11.55pm-12.10pm *News* 12.10pm-12.25pm *News* 12.25pm-12.40pm *News* 12.40pm-12.55pm *News* 12.55pm-1.10pm *News* 1.10pm-1.25pm *News* 1.25pm-1.40pm *News* 1.40pm-1.55pm *News* 1.55pm-2.10pm *News* 2.10pm-2.25pm *News* 2.25pm-2.40pm *News* 2.40pm-2.55pm *News* 2.55pm-3.10pm *News* 3.10pm-3.25pm *News* 3.25pm-3.40pm *News* 3.40pm-3.55pm *News* 3.55pm-4.10pm *News* 4.10pm-4.25pm *News* 4.25pm-4.40pm *News* 4.40pm-4.55pm *News* 4.55pm-5.10pm *News* 5.10pm-5.25pm *News* 5.25pm-5.40pm *News* 5.40pm-5.55pm *News* 5.55pm-6.10pm *News* 6.10pm-6.25pm *News* 6.25pm-6.40pm *News* 6.40pm-6.55pm *News* 6.55pm-7.10pm *News* 7.10pm-7.25pm *News* 7.25pm-7.40pm *News* 7.40pm-7.55pm *News* 7.55pm-8.10pm 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PART 2

TUESDAY MARCH 29 1988

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1394.4 (-13.9)  
FT-SE 100  
1746.5 (-21.4)  
Bargains  
34585 (31584)  
USM (Datastream)  
145.2 (-3.19)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8575 (+0.0215)  
W German mark  
3.0825 (+0.0054)  
Trade-weighted  
77.1 (+0.4)

Profits rise  
to £61.8m  
at Slough

Slough Estates, Britain's largest industrial property developer, stands to reap £100 million from the Budget changes. Sir Nigel Mobbs, the chairman, says the effect of the tax changes to capital gains legislation reduces the group's potential tax liability on asset disposals at their revalued amounts from £200 million to £100 million.

Pretax profit in the year ended December rose from £49.6 million to £61.8 million, and the group's net asset value rose from 228p to 287p a share.

Profits were helped by £12 million (£1.8 million) from trading properties, but restricted by £2.4 million because of adverse exchange rates.

A final dividend of 4.5p makes 7.3p (6.5p) for the year. The shares eased by 11p to 264p.

ESN shop buy

Woolworth has raised £10.65 million in a sale and leaseback deal with Electricity Supply Nominees, the property arm of the electricity supply industry's pension fund, ESN.

TI Group sells

TI Group, the specialist engineering company, has sold its Canadian subsidiary to a management group for £2.5 million. The business, which manufactures leading bay equipment, operates in Dallas, Texas, as well as in Toronto and London, Ontario.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	1976.96 (-1.99)
Tokyo	25822.71 (+301.99)
Nikkei Average	2468.78 (-35.15)
Hong Kong	236.4 (-5.5)
Sydney	1380.2 (-4.4)
Frankfurt	1341.8 (-38.1)
Brussels	4888.9 (-73.5)
Paris CAC	287.1 (-3.2)
Zurich S&K	425.1 (-34.2)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	898.61 (-11.03)
FT-30	987.06 (-12.1)
FT-100	940.5 (-5.0)
FT-100 Index	97.68 (+0.07)
FT Govt Secs	90.18 (-0.06)

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Closing prices Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS	
Graham House	450p (+25p)
AIJ Cocks	222p (+12p)
Pearson	675p (+15p)
L Joseph	437p (+13p)
S Wimpsey	675p (+11p)
Turnhill Smith	675p (+10p)
Beauford Group	135p (+10p)

FALLS	
Body Shop	475p (-35p)
Reutens	487p (-20p)
Prudential	827p (-20p)
Lucas	583p (-14p)
Consolidated Gold	685p (-15p)
BAT	425p (-15p)
Campani	276p (-18p)
Standard Chart	424p (-15p)
Yorkshire TV	185p (-20p)
Chem	255p (-20p)
Rank Organisation	675p (-12p)
Eucalyptus Pulp	885p (-80p)
Polly Peck	251p (-11p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Basic 8%	
3-month interbank 8 1/2%-8 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2%-8 3/4%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%	
Federal Funds 6 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 5.66-5.65%	
30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 1/4%	

CURRENCIES

London		New York	
£ \$1.8575		£ \$1.8595	
DM 3.0825		DM 3.0850	
FF 10.4527		FF 10.4570	
¥ 164.25		¥ 164.25	
ECU 1.3661		ECU 1.3661	

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$453.70 pm \$453.90	
close \$454.00-454.50 (\$244.50-255.00)	
New York	
Comex \$453.90-454.40	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm \$15.75/bbl (\$15.55)	
Discovers latest trading price	

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# Heron poised for US sale

## Ronson considers offers for \$113m savings bank

By Graham Searjeant

Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron International is negotiating the possible sale of the group's principal financial operation in the United States, the Pima Savings and Loan Association, of Tucson, Arizona.

Heron has appointed Salomon Brothers to act in talks with a number of possible buyers who have expressed interest recently, a statement issued in the US revealed. Mr Alan Goldman, a director of Heron International, said the group did not wish to say anything further at this stage.

Pima has been one of Mr Ronson's greatest success stories. It was bought for \$24 million eight years ago, when it had earnings of about \$2.5 million. In 1985, Pima made pretax profits of \$27 million. In 1986, the latest period covered in the group accounts, deposits grew to \$1.8 billion and Pima's net worth rose to \$113 million (£61 million).

But profits fell back to \$20 million, partly due to increased loan losses. Mr Ronson warned that the Arizona commercial property market had deteriorated due to overbuilding.

Earlier, Mr Ronson used Pima for his biggest coup in the United States, the purchase of 12,500 acres of potential development land around Tucson.

Heron also owns the Western American Finance Bank, a mortgage bank, in Phoenix, Arizona, and has substantial property interests in New York and on the West Coast of the US as well as in Arizona.

In March 1987, Heron backed a \$93 million road development scheme to open up 48,000 acres outside Phoenix and raise the value of land in which Pima had an interest. There were also plans to expand into Phoenix.

Pima has 40 per cent of the savings market in Pima County, which includes Tucson, and built a new \$15 million headquarters in 1986.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Washington has to approve the sale of savings and loan banks with federal deposit guarantees but said no proposed change of ownership had yet been filed.

The FHLBB or the Arizona Banking Commission would also be able to insist on a change of ownership if it were worried about the owner or the bank's finances.

Heron International, one of the biggest private groups in

the country, made £50 million pretax profit in the year to March 1987, and its accounts showed a strong balance sheet with £250 million in investments and cash.

But last October, Mr Ronson withdrew a £50 million Eurobond issue after his arrest on charges connected to the Guinness affair.

Earlier yesterday, Heron announced moves to strengthen the board of Heron Trading, the holding company for operations that include import and distribution concessions for Lancia and Suzuki, the Heron Motor Group and Heron's petrol retailing and freight interests.

Five new directors from within the group joined the board, including the Heron International director Mr Michael Marx and the managing directors of the freight and petrol businesses.

Mr Ronson said the appointments were necessary to maintain the pace of Heron Trading's expansion.

Heron also sold 61 public houses at an undisclosed price to Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, which already owns more than 750 public houses, mainly in the Midlands. The properties came from a package of 210 public houses Heron bought only last month from Grand Metropolitan.

The additions are mainly in the Midlands and the Manchester area and will extend Wolverhampton & Dudley's coverage to an area east of Leicester.



Success story: Ronson scored a coup with Pima

# Profits increase 25% to £151.8m



Echoing the future: Lord Blakenham, Pearson chairman, believes French deal will go through (Photograph: John Rogers)

## Pearson 'nears Les Echos win'

By Carol Fergusson

Pearson, the publishing and financial group, is confident that it is close to clinching a deal to buy Les Echos, the French financial daily newspaper.

Lord Blakenham, the chairman, said the outlook was very good and the deal was likely to be concluded soon after the French general elections in May.

"We have signed contracts and it is likely to be a matter of timing rather than whether it takes place," he said.

The French government had moved to block the acquisition on the grounds that, since The News Corporation, run by Mr Rupert Murdoch,

owns 20.5 per cent of Pearson, ownership of the French newspaper would pass into non-EEC hands.

However, Mr James Joll, Pearson's finance director, said the group was encouraged by the European Commission's stand that it qualifies as an EEC company if it is EEC-based.

Pearson's pretax profits, earnings and dividends all rose by 25 per cent last year. The £30 million rise in pretax profits to £151.8 million was helped by a £14 million swing in interest costs from a charge of £11 million to interest income of £3 million this year.

The group's information and entertainment division,

accounting for 60 per cent of trading profits, did particularly well, rising 27 per cent to £89.4 million.

Mr Frank Barlow, the chief executive of the Financial Times, said advertising revenue from tombstones and company prospectuses had dried up, but that there had been substitution of trade and classified advertising.

He said 200 planned redundancies on the composing side had been made ahead of schedule, and another 200 print workers would leave in the summer when the move to the East India Dock was completed.

Earnings per share rose from 37.4p to 46.7p and the

dividend rises by 3p to 15p net. The City was pleasantly surprised by the results and marked up the shares 15p to 675p against a falling market.

The company said the acquisition of Addison Wesley Publishing, the US publisher, made Pearson the fifth-largest English language publisher, and meant that both Penguin, with the New English Library, and Longman had an international presence.

The company said negotiations were proceeding with Fairfax to take a large stake in the Australian Financial Review. Mr Barlow has said he would be interested in buying not less than 50 per cent of the newspaper. *Times*, page 28

## Koppers subsidiaries may be sold to thwart Beazer offer

From Lawrence Lever, Los Angeles

Mr Charles Pullin, the chairman of the US Koppers Co, which is under siege from Beazer, the British house-builder, said that Koppers is holding talks on the possible sale of its building materials and cement company to a third party.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mr Pullin said in a written statement that the discussions were being held with "a number of third parties." The move is a clear attempt to thwart Beazer's

\$1.7 billion (£917.43 million) tender offer for the company.

But the discussions with third parties are merely one option that the company is considering in order to escape Beazer.

Alternatives under consideration include a recapitalization which allows the company to remain independent, and the purchase of a stake in another company.

A consortium of banks has already agreed to lend \$1 billion for a recapitalization

which would involve making a cash payment to Koppers' shareholders.

In a separate development, the US District Court in Los Angeles granted an order preventing BNS, the company through which Beazer is making the bid, from buying any Koppers' shares until April 4. Koppers is expected to seek a permanent injunction blocking the tender offer.

Koppers argues that anti-trust laws should block the bid.

## Guinness share deal decision

## Shares or dividend offer by Midland

By Our Banking Correspondent

Guinness will learn today whether it has succeeded in its High Court battle against a ruling by the City Takeover Panel which could cost it millions of pounds.

The Panel decided last September that the brewing and spirits group had breached the City Code on takeovers and mergers through a £76 million secret shares deal which allegedly took place during the 1986 bid battle for Distillers, the drinks group.

It found that Pipetec, a Swiss company, acted in concert with Guinness during the bid. If Guinness fails to get the Panel's decision quashed it may have to pay out £100 million to former Distillers shareholders.

Midland Bank is planning to offer new shares instead of this year's cash dividend to its shareholders, if the scrip dividend scheme is approved at the bank's general meeting next month.

The scheme is rare among British banks, although Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, the far eastern bank which bought 14.9 per cent of Midland last year, regularly gives shares.

Under the Midland scheme, shareholders would be able to choose whether to receive the 20.1p dividend for 1987, unchanged from the previous year, in cash or shares.

The value of the shares will be taken from the average

price of Midland stock in the first five days of share dealing after the cash dividend is paid.

The bank also wants the option to offer a scrip dividend alternative for the 1988 interim dividend.

Meanwhile, Midland's annual report and accounts revealed that the bank's highest paid executive, Mr Herve de Carnoy, the head of international banking, received £748,458.

## Meurice is put on the market

From Susan MacDonald

Inter-Continental, owned by Grand Metropolitan, is selling the Hotel Meurice in Paris.

The sale, in line with Inter-Continental's streamlining operation begun in 1981, is a chance for a French organization to buy into the prestigious hotel market in a city where the majority of the best-known hotels are in foreign hands.

The number one in the French field, Accor, is said to be interested in buying this historical hotel on the Rue du Rivoli opposite the Tuileries.

When Inter-Continental was taken over from Pan-Am by Grand Metropolitan in 1981, it found itself with no less than six large hotels in Paris. Of these, the Lotti, the Prince de Galles and the Penta have already been disposed of.

Its two main hotels now are the Inter-Continental and the Grand Hotel, Place de l'Opera.

The sale is being handled by the Paris office of Jones Laing Wootton.

The reserve price for the Meurice is reported to be 250 million francs (£23.87 million).

## Tokyo licence for Smith New Court

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Smith New Court, the equities dealing and broking firm, is one of two foreign companies to have been granted a securities licence in Japan. The new licences bring the total of foreign stockbrokers in Tokyo to 45.

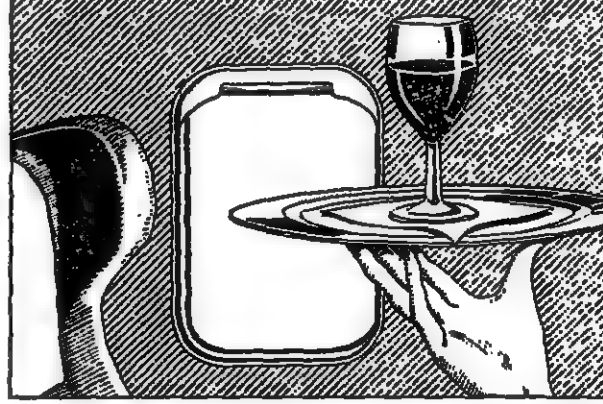
Smith New Court and BNP Securities will be allowed to open full stockbroking branches in Tokyo next

month. The licence enables the companies to transact broking business within Japan and increases the amount of commission they receive on each deal by about half.

The licences are among the swiftest to have been granted by the Japanese Ministry of Finance, since Smith New Court set up a representative office in Tokyo less than 18

months ago. The firm does not, however, yet have plans to apply for a full seat on the Tokyo stock exchange which would allow it to deal as a market-maker in the Japanese market.

Smith New Court already has a substantial far eastern broking operation based in Hong Kong.



EVERY DAY, IT IS.  
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## Hit show company scores around the world

## Tapping out a useful £2.8m

By Joe Joseph

The Really Useful Group, the company set up to tap the commercial talents of Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, continues to reap the success of the composer's ability to turn foot-tapping tunes into long-running hits like *Cats* and *Starlight Express* that break records from Broadway to Budapest.

Profits in the six months to December 31 rose from £2.51 million to £2.87 million on turnover of £11.62 million, with sales of the cast album of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Mr Lloyd Webber's most recent box office success, swelling profits from the group's record and music publishing division.

Mr Lloyd Webber, who recently hired Prince Edward as a junior factotum, is penning the final quavers of his newest project, which is based on *Aspects of Love*, a 1940s novel by David Garnett.

Mr Keith Turner, a Really Useful director, said: "We will be giving it a workshop try-out in the coming months before putting it on stage in London either this autumn or next spring."

A less than rapturous welcome from some New York critics for *The Phan-*



Lloyd Webber: Move into publishing

the New York production opened with advance bookings of \$19 million. The show opens in Japan next month and Austria later this year.

The Really Useful Group has been much in the headlines in the past few weeks as a result of its move into book publishing by acquiring Aurum Press.

Aurum is the publisher of Mr Tom Bowler's controversial biography, *Maxwell: The Outsider*.

The book's subject, Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, is trying hard to keep the title off Britain's bookshelves after succeeding last week in getting another study of himself - *Maxwell: A Portrait of Power* by Mr Peter Thompson and Mr Anthony Delano - pulped. Aurum and Mr Bowler both intend to defend any action for alleged libel brought in the courts by Mr Maxwell, but meanwhile many bookshops are wary of stocking the book.

Is Prince Edward enjoying the hubbub of his new surroundings? "I think so," says Mr Turner. "He is getting on very well indeed. He is learning the business." Is he a useful member of the team? "Distinctly."

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## Brent hits £9.1m as it goes for growth

By Alison Eadie

Brent Chemicals International, the specialty chemicals group, made pretax profits in the year to end-December of £9.1 million, a rise of 24 per cent. Turnover rose 20 per cent to £70.6 million.

Just under half the profits growth came from acquisitions. The currency effect was neutral, with the lower dollar offset by higher European currencies.

The surface technology division had an excellent year, while the food, beverage and packaging division achieved good profits growth.

Brent is continuing to look for acquisitions, particularly in the US and Europe electronics sector. The company makes chemicals for the manufacture of printed circuit boards.

The outlook for growth is encouraging.

Brent has changed the weighting of its business in the past four years from mature industries into growth areas. It expects 24 per cent of its sales to come from the packaging sector this year — compared with 5 per cent in 1984 — and 13 per cent from printed circuit board manufacture, compared with 2 per cent.

Earnings per share rose 11 per cent to 11.5p and the total dividend was increased by 14 per cent to 5.2p.

# Wall Street blues push prices down

Another disappointing performance on Wall Street saw share prices in London beating another ragged retreat yesterday and closing near their worst levels of the day.

This came after disappointing performances in New York and Tokyo during the weekend. Tokyo managed to claw back most of Friday's losses but this failed to cheer London which spent another hesitant session with fund

Anglo United shareholders have voted for the Barnett & Hallamshire rescue deal that will see its coal interests exchanged with B&H's non-mining operations. B&H holders meet next week. The shares are expected to return to market on April 8 and B&H should open at 10p against 7½p at suspension.

managers anchored firmly on the sidelines.

Trading was slow with only 363.7 million shares traded by 4pm. Brokers claim the institutions are content to remain liquid with their money in the bank. Professional investors are keeping their cash outside the equity market. Liquidity levels of about 8 per cent are some of the highest seen in the past few years and there is clearly no rush to plough the spare funds back into the equity market.

Share prices on Wall Street opened lower again in re-

samed trading after the weekend break with the Dow Jones industrial average losing 16.25 points in early trading. As a result prices in London were again drifting in after-hours trading, with the FT-SE 100 finishing the day 21.4 down at 1,746, having been 29.6 lower.

The narrower FT index of 30 shares closed above its worst levels with a fall of 13.9 at 1,394.4, having been 20.2 down at its worst point.

The latest industrial survey from the Confederation of British Industry made encouraging reading, showing order books at their highest level since 1977. But the equity market discounted the news.

Government securities remained a dull market with losses stretching to £4½ worried by the prospect of higher US interest rates in the wake of the US dollar's latest fall against the pound.

Leading shares bore the brunt of the markdown with double figure losses among many leading exporters worried by their uncompetitiveness after the dollar's latest bout of weakness.

Imperial Chemical Industries lost 20p to £9.99, while falls were also seen in BAT Industries, 15p to 42½p, and Great Universal Stores "A" 26p to £10.53.

Guinness managed to resist the downward pull elsewhere in the market closing virtually

## Guinness: buying back more of its own shares?



unchanged on the day at 304p as 1.1 million shares changed hands.

There was talk among dealers that the company was again buying back its own shares. Last year it obtained permission from shareholders

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World markets ..... 29

to buy back up to 83 million shares, or 10 per cent of the issued capital. According to Mr Victor McCall, drinks expert at Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, the company had bought about 13 million shares in the period up to January.

Last week Guinness produced full-year figures showing pretax profits up from £355 million to £408 million

and announced that it planned to hit the acquisition trail again over the next couple of years.

Guinness will be back in the High Court again today to hear the judgement of its appeal against the extra pay-

ment to Distillers' shareholders after the 1986 takeover.

Allied-Lyons, the drinks and food group, was another firm market in the drinks sector climbing 4p to 37½p amid renewed stories that Bond Corporation, the Australian brewer headed by Mr Alan Bond, was adding to its holding. TC Coombes, the broker, was said to have been a big buyer of the shares and

has acted on behalf of Mr Bond in the past. At the last count, Mr Bond held almost 3 per cent of the equity but has gone out of his way to deny recent reports that he has been adding to his holding.

Nevertheless, the market feels he may consider launching a full bid, at some stage.

It was not the best day for a couple of new issues to make their debut. MTL, the instruments group, made a cautious start on the Unlisted Securities Market after a placing of 3 million shares by Chase Manhattan Securities, the broker, last week at 73p. The price ended the day just 3p higher at 76p.

Making its move from the Business Expansion Scheme to the USM was Resort Hotels, the hotel operator. The shares were placed at 14p and finished with a 3p premium at 17p.

MS International slipped 3p to 117p after seeing off the unwanted bid from Dobson Park, the mining equipment group, which now owns about 36 per cent of the shares after purchases in the market. Dobson Park also ended the day on a dull note with a fall of 5p to 99p.

Ashted Group, the USM-quoted plant hire group, was another casualty of yesterday's shakeout in spite of another "buy" circular from County NatWest, the broking arm of the NatWest Bank. Mr An-

drew Holland and Miss Michele Delmain, the analysts, are urging clients to buy the share aggressively.

Last week Ashted announced the acquisition of Power Products for £1.7 million satisfied by the issue of 400,000 shares at 42½p.

Power Products is forecasting pretax profits of £250,000 for the year to March just ending. The group boasts as-

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, is a big fan of Tottenham Hotspur, and expects the shares to start outperforming. Last week it reported £1 million pretax profits. P&D is looking for a similar result this year and expects the bulk from non-footballing activities. The price fell 7p to 111p.

County is not looking for any sort of contribution from Power Products in the current year but expects pretax profits at Ashted to grow from £1 million to £2.8 million where the prospective p/e falls from 38.8 to 16.7. It claims the shares are undervalued and is now looking for a price of about 500p a share.

Michael Clark

## Profits at Myson rise 18.5% to £20.6m

By Our City Staff

Myson Group, which manufactures central heating boilers, pumps and radiators, made pretax profits of £20.6 million in the year to end-December — a rise of 18.5 per cent — on sales almost unchanged at £158 million.

Efforts to reduce costs in both the residential and industrial divisions were successful and margins rose to 13 per cent from 11 per cent.

Mr Ray Wheeler, the chairman and chief executive, said there was more cost to be stripped out, but the obvious targets had been tackled.

Outstanding areas included integrating and standardizing materials buying.

Sales, which dipped in the latter half of 1986 and first half of 1987 as Myson rationalized the Thorn EMI heating division, increased in the second half and have risen again in the first quarter of this year.

Myson is looking for more "bolt-on" acquisitions at the lighter end of the building materials market. It has no borrowings and cash in the bank.

The dividend was raised by a generous 35 per cent to 5.4p as a catching-up exercise after previous parsimony. Mr Wheeler said.

Earnings per share rose 19.9 per cent to 16.7p.

## Body Shop plans to raise £9.6m via share placing

By Alison Eadie

Body Shop International, the natural beauty products retail chain, is raising £9.6 million net of expenses via a placing of 2,026 million new shares at 480p.

The money will be used for additional warehousing and manufacturing capacity in Britain to help the company meet the large increase in demand flowing not just from the home market, but also from Europe, Canada and the Far East. The US already has its own warehousing and manufacturing facilities.

The placing represents 4.8 per cent of the enlarged equity of Body Shop. Mrs Anita Roddick and her husband, Gordon, the co-founders of the company, are to sell some of their shares to dilute their holding to a combined 30.3 per cent of the enlarged equity from its present 34.9 per cent. They will realize £6.1 mil-

lion from the sale of 1.26 million shares. Mr Ian McGilgan, another founder shareholder, will also be £6.2 million richer after reducing his shareholding to 30.07 per cent from 34.7 per cent.

The fund-raising exercise is the first conducted by Body Shop, which has spent £6 million from its own resources on warehousing, manufacturing and office space in the five years to the end of last September. The new warehouse complex is expected to cost £10 million to build and equip and should be ready for occupation by August next year.

A placing was chosen as the most cost-effective method of raising money. The shares will go to institutional clients of Capel-Cure Myers, the broker, some of whom are already Body Shop shareholders. The shares fell by 35p yesterday to 475p.

## Quality pays at L&M as profits surge 59%

By Michael Tate

London & Metropolitan, which is one of the more substantial of the new generation of property developers to come to the market recently, has reported a 59 per cent increase in pretax profits to £9.06 million for 1987.

The figures include a £1.38 million contribution in respect of receivable interest, against just £254,000 a year ago, reflecting the income earned on the proceeds of last year's £26 million rights issue.

London & Metropolitan, which is chaired by Mr Norman Ireland, and run by Mr David Lewis, the chief executive, is paying a final divi-

dend of 3.25p a share, making 4.75p for the year. Last year it made a single payment of 2p a share. Earnings are up from 12.2p to 15.9p per share.

The company only received a quotation in November 1986, when London & Edinburgh Trust and Balfour Beatty sold half of the shares they owned.

It has made a name for itself as a quality developer and is growing strongly.

Mr Lewis says that the company's current development place it in a strong position to continue to reward its shareholders.

## Watts sees progress in clay

By Colin Campbell

Watts, Blake, Bearn and Company, the Devon clay producer, gives warning of price pressures on margins this year but is confident that after a successful 1987 financial year there will be further profits progress in 1988.

Pretax profit in the year ended December rose from £5.46 million to £6.52 million, and a final dividend of 4.15p, making 6.15p (5.3p), is declared. Gross external sales rose from £31.9 million to £38.3 million.

Demand for the group's products both in Britain and West Germany should increase again, despite an expected slow-down in the rates of economic growth for most European economies.

The group aims to expand its European operations by acquisitions in West Germany. The shares eased 4p to 264p.

## Ipeco hit by dollar weakness

By Our City Staff

Ipeco Holdings, designer and manufacturer of aircraft crew seats, made lower pretax profits in the year to December 26. The company made £1.3 million, against £3 million the year before, on turnover 27 per cent higher.

The total dividend was reduced to 2p from 2.85p. The weaker dollar, which knocked £750,000 off profits, and high short-term costs accounted for the fall.

The newer businesses — cargo loading equipment and advanced materials component manufacture — also needed more investment than expected.

Demand remains buoyant and Ipeco expects aircraft seat output to rise by up to 30 per cent. Adverse fluctuations in the dollar's value should be offset by economies of scale from Ipeco Europe's high production rates.

## Royal chief's £203,952

By Our City Staff

Mr Alan Horsford, the chief executive of Royal Insurance, has had a salary increase of £86,647 — from £117,305 to £203,952 — according to the annual report and accounts.

The rise comes as group pretax profits fell last year to

£274 million from £304.8 million, caused by worldwide weather losses of £231 million.

Royal's five non-British subsidiaries all achieved greatly improved profitability, but Britain bore the brunt of £197 million of exceptional weather losses.

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# Laing tops £45m despite low construction profits

By Alexandra Jackson

The extremely low level of profitability in the construction industry was highlighted by results from John Laing, one of the leading building companies.

Pretax profits rose from £38.1 million to £45.7 million, on turnover up from £877.6 million to £1,071 million.

The traditional construction activities, however, contributed only 22 per cent of trading profits, despite generating 77 per cent of turnover.

While the nature of the industry means annual turnover does not directly relate to the profits recognized in that year, margins at 1.3 per cent are pitifully slim.

Housebuilding, a higher margin activity, was the largest profit centre, accounting



Martin Laing: Budget boost

for £35.5 million of the £48 million trading profits.

The overall buoyancy in the market, particularly in the South-east where Laing Homes is best represented, helped, but so did a better mix of units.

The average house price rose 22 per cent to £56,000,

reflecting market movements as well as a reduction in the proportion of starter homes — now making up 40 per cent of sales.

Laing's "Superhomes" business, which sells kits containing all the fittings for a house apart for the outside shell, sold 750 units last year.

This business developed from the group's own timber-framed housing operation and is more profitable than straight housebuilding.

Retirement homes were strong during 1987 and accounted for 300 of the 3,000 units sold by the housing division.

The US also made a profit contribution, with 300 units sold there during the year. Laing has plans to set up another greenfield operation in the eastern United States.

Mr Martin Laing, the chair-

man, said there was no sign as yet of the housing market turning down.

Indeed, Mr Laing said he expected the Budget move to end joint mortgage relief on one property to temporarily boost the starter homes market before the change takes effect in August.

The group has a strong balance sheet with £14.5 million of net cash. However, Laing's ambitions to build up another division to counterbalance its housing activities may have led the group into a geared position by year end.

Possible areas of interest to Laing are leisure and building products.

Earnings per share rose from 30p to 34.3p. A final dividend of 5p was declared, making a total of 7p for the year, an increase of 23 per cent.

# Opec oil price meeting fixed

By David Young

Energy Correspondent

April 9 has been set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as the date for its emergency committee meeting to review world oil prices.

A full ministerial meeting could follow four days later to discuss a new set of official output quotas, which the cartel hopes will help send the world oil price upwards.

At present oil prices are still more than \$2 below the official Opec target price of \$18 a barrel with indications that with spring and summer consumption levels approaching the price could drop further.

The Opec monitoring committee will meet in Vienna on April 9, according to member oil ministers.

However, under Opec rules, any member state can attend committee meetings and there are signs that some countries which are not nominated members of the committee are preparing to send their oil ministers to Vienna.

The committee is made up of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Nigeria and Algeria, but other oil ministers have made bookings in hotels in Vienna, where Opec is based.

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan starts on April 18, so any full ministerial meeting which starts on April 13 would have to be brief.

Oil traders say that the meeting would have to be short, but also conclusive, if it is to affect the oil price. At present Opec is not due to have a full meeting until June 8 and already some contracts are being placed for oil deliveries during June.

However, new official output figures from Opec due for publication this week will show that while almost all members are sticking to their quotas Abu Dhabi has been guilty of over-producing and has pushed the daily average Opec output during the first quarter of this year to just above 18 million barrels a day compared with the official quota of just more than 15 million barrels a day plus the 2.3 million barrels a day which Iraq is producing.

The non Opec producers — Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, China and Colombia — are likely to tell the Opec committee that they will trim output, but only if Opec agrees to an across-the-board production cut.

# Macarthy's special pink prescription

COMMENT David Brewerton

The man in the chemist shop gives a little cough and hands over a pink form to the pharmacist. His fellow customers imagine he is seeking a remedy for his ailment, and that the pink form will yield a bottle of medicine, a plastic spoon, and some sympathetic advice from the pharmacist. But they are wrong. He is there on behalf of Macarthy, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, trying to take over UniChem, and the pink form is part of the campaign being waged to weaken UniChem's resolve to resist.

UniChem is the most successful of the pharmaceutical wholesalers, in that it is taking accounts from its two big rivals, AAH and Macarthy. Over the past month, it claims to have acquired hundreds of accounts from them, and neither AAH nor Macarthy is amused. So they have wheeled in the big guns.

This year, one or other of them has taken complaints against UniChem to:

- The Department of Trade and Industry;
- The Office of Fair Trading;
- The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain;
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants; and
- The Securities Association.

Macarthy has gone to UniChem's customers and to its shareholders, questioned the role of its auditors and rubbished a valuation produced by its stockbrokers.

# Churning it up for TV

The Stocks and Shares Show has ended its 12-week run but the controversy will run a little longer.

The show, screened on Channel 4 on Sunday evenings, was centred on four contestants who each invested an imaginary £10,000 in the stock market, switching their portfolios week by week to generate the maximum capital gain. Each week, the contestants were advised by two "experts", people from the City and financial journalists, who recommended shares.

John Swinfield, who produced and introduced the show, believes there was a serious educational job to be done and that by putting the experts in front of the camera and beaming the show to 750,000 viewers, that role was fulfilled.

That may be the case, but I have to say that my own appearance on the show allowed me little opportunity to educate, except to point out that shares tipped on television are likely to rise as a result. In that, television is

little different from newspapers, except that every show carried a "wealth warning" to put the unwary on their guard.

Criticism relates to the show's short-term perspective. No serious investor should buy shares one week only to sell them the next. Any investor who did would find his gains wiped out by dealing charges and by the spreads between bid and offer prices. The rules of the show imposed an unrealistic charge of only £20 for a sale and purchase, which as a result distorted the level of profits that can be achieved by churning investments.

That said, there is nothing inherently wrong with churning if that is what investors wish to do. The stock market exists to allow people to buy and sell: its only other purpose is to allow companies to raise new capital, but that can be done as cheaply and efficiently through private placements.

The show merely reflects the massive increase in interest in owning shares, and should not be taken too seriously.

# Borrie hits at Lautro disclosure

By Vivienne Goldsmith

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, is concerned about the lack of public information on insurance company expenses.

But, in his review of the rule book of the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organization (Lautro), published yesterday, he has stopped short of saying that the rules on disclosure are anti-competitive.

He hopes that open disclosure of expenses might still come about. The Lautro rule book, which has now been approved by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), merely asks the insurance companies to set out the value of insurance contracts if they were to be surrendered within the first five years.

Mr John Fry, the membership secretary of Lautro said: "If you take away the values from the sum you invested you know what their expenses were. It is more important for investors to know what they get than what the company's expenses are."

But Sir Gordon is not happy with this. "If the rules have not been modified within a reasonable time to require disclosure, then I shall reconsider the matter and may decide to report that the effects of the present very limited disclosure are likely to be significantly anti-competitive."

The SIB has commissioned an independent study of insurance company disclosure of expenses and charges from Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, which is due to be published this week.



Confident outlook: David Donne was looking forward yesterday to another good year

# Record £60.3m for Steetley

By Alexandra Jackson

Steetley, the construction materials group, revealed record pretax profits up 36 per cent at £60.3 million, on turnover up from £418.8 million to £486.6 million. Mr David Donne, the chairman, said: "The current year has started well and we have a well-founded confidence and expect to have another successful year."

Earnings per share advanced from 22.6p to 30.9p. A final dividend of 6p was declared, making a total of

9.25p for the year, up 19 per cent. Group margins widened from 12 per cent to 14 per cent and a return on capital of 24 per cent was achieved.

Comparative pretax profits for 1986 were restated downwards by £1.8 million to take account of an accounting change regarding the group's depreciation charge. The 1987 figures were also effected by this factor, so were even better than they first appeared. Brokers' estimates had ranged up to £59 million. However,

overall market weakness pushed the share price down 8p to 328p.

A strategic move into the US brick market was made during the year with two acquisitions in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Since the year-end, Steetley has bought several hard rock quarries in France for £25.6 million. This makes the group the largest aggregate company in France with capacity to produce 25 million tonnes of stone. *Times, page 28*

# Low stocks fuel nickel rise

By Colin Narbrough

The price of nickel yesterday continued its record-breaking run, jumping \$1,400 (£762) a tonne for immediate delivery to \$23,900 on the London Metal Exchange.

News that LME warehouse stocks of the metal — a key component of stainless steel — were at their lowest for five and a half years helped fuel the fresh rise. It follows the sustained climb of recent weeks,

attributed mainly to world-wide demand from the steel industry.

A dispute over export duties has also cut shipments from the Dominican Republic, the source of about 3 per cent of the world's nickel, worsening an already tight supply situation.

Strong demand for stainless steel is expected to continue until the second half of this

# SDA plan for seven factories

Seven factories, which could employ up to 150 people, are to be built at the former Grange Stonefield premises in Cumnock, Ayrshire. The £600,000 project, funded by the Scottish Development Agency, is the second phase of a plan to increase jobs and encourage development in one of Scotland's worst areas of unemployment.

The first phase, an enterprise centre, provides advice on starting a business, including management and marketing support, a training centre and workshop.

Mr Chris Aitken, the SDA's regional director, said: "The new factories will be ideally suited to existing firms who are looking to expand, or for companies moving into the area."

Companies moving in will have access to the enterprise centre and its training facilities. The area has been hard hit with mining closures and the loss of support industries.

# Bennett & Fountain at the double

Bennett & Fountain Group, the fast-growing electrical wholesaler and retailer, more than doubled its turnover and pretax profits in the six months to December 31.

The group, a comparative newcomer to the market, lost out to its much larger competitor Dixons in a bid to take over the Sheffield electricals retailer Wigfalls. It chalked up an interim pretax profit rise of 125 per cent to £2.84 million.

Turnover was £31 million, up 110 per cent.

A maiden dividend of 0.3p net was declared. The company said that in the half year, it had integrated nine acquisitions, adding a total of 50 outlets to the group. Mr Jack Pontner, the chairman, said the group would continue to acquire businesses at prices that reflected their potential.

# Sour times for Saudis

By Our City Staff

The Saudi Arabian royal family may have banned Jeffrey Robinson's book *Yamani: The Inside Story* from its shores, but it seems that a number of extracts have been getting through. Photocopies of some of the more controversial pages, which apparently criticize the way King Fahd has managed the Saudi Arabian economy, have, I am told, been posted in plain brown envelopes to the home addresses of hundreds of prominent Saudis. The copies are believed to be the work of anti-royalist factions, but most of those sent copies are publicly denying receipt of them. Arabic interest in the book, officially published this week, is still high — one Oxford Street bookshop yesterday sold all 11 remaining copies on its shelves to a representative of the Qatar Embassy. "The first printing, which was into five figures, has sold out," says American-born Robinson happily. "We are doing our second printing now."

But for the former Saudi oil minister, Sheikh Yamani — otherwise known as "Zaki" — it must cap what has been a disastrous week. He flew out of Britain last night after being refused an extension of his injunction in both the High Court and the Court of Appeal. He has until tomorrow to launch a final appeal and whether he does or not he is, his aides tell me, now planning a libel action against Robinson. This one should run and run.

# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Scrimgeour Kickers

Fund managers from within the UK investment office at Norwich Union will, I am told, be nursing bruised shins on Thursday morning. For, under the captaincy of Neil Mears, they will have played a football match against Citicorp Scrimgeour Kickers the previous night at QPR's Loftus Road ground. With Norwich Union the victor of two previous battles this season against County NatWest and

Morgan Grenfell, the Scrimgeour team, led by salesman John Teachi, is determined to win. "We've got to break their winning run," says one Scrimgeour player. To strengthen the Scrimgeour attack, their team, I can reveal, will also include sales trader Bob "The Cat" Panter and market-maker Bill "Hard Man" Sharp whose nicknames should be warning enough for Norwich Union.

## Cash stamps

If you do not want to take any money out of the stock market until the FT-SE 100 index has climbed back up to its rightful



"In the pink, one could say..."

place above 2,300, but are in need of a small cash injection, how about selling your stamp collection? Instead of having to wait months for an auction date, owners of valuable stamp collections are now being offered a new loan facility by Stanley Gibbons, the world's oldest and most renowned stamp dealer. Stanley Gibbons Auctions has linked up with City Merchants Bank — founded in 1973 with assets of about £450 million and part of MIM — which is offering advances of £20,000 or more, at competitive rates, to philatelists who agree to an auction. In short, it means the vendor will receive an advance of up to 50 per cent of the expected auction price. The collection will, however, be held as security by Gibbons on behalf of the bank. Just in case you change your mind.

Carol Leonard



# 70% of these passengers fly into Britain on Pratt & Whitney power.

They leap from the pockets of tourists and business travelers, straight into the British economy. Every year, 89 million people fly in and out of the U.K. An overwhelming 62 million of them fly on planes powered by Pratt & Whitney engines.

Pratt & Whitney is proud to be the engine of choice for so many airlines, and proud to serve the United Kingdom.





## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Scrip plan after profit doubled at Canning

W Canning, whose interests range from chemicals and metals to electronics and medical services, doubled pretax profits last year to £6.08 million on turnover of £95.3 million. The company has plans to introduce a scrip dividend scheme to allow shareholders the choice of receiving dividends in shares rather than cash.

Much of the impetus behind the improved figures came from the US medical division. But with 60 per cent of the profits of the West Midlands company coming directly or indirectly from outside Britain, sterling's strength is threatening profit margins. A final 4p dividend makes a 5.3p total for the year to December 31, against 4p in 1986.

## Lilleshall in 87% jump

Lilleshall, the steel stockholder being revamped by Mr John Leek, the former Hill Samuel director, halved profits by 87 per cent to £642,000 in 1987, excluding property sale surpluses. These contributed just £37,000 this time, against £330,000 a year ago, so pretax profits after property sale surpluses fell from £672,000 to £67,000. The final dividend rises to 2.25p a share, making 3p (2.25p) for the year.

## Earnings rise at W Jacks

William Jacks, the Berkshire motor dealer, saw pretax profits accelerate from £557,000 to £858,000 in the year to end-January, raising earnings per share from 4.24p to 5.54p. The board is paying an 0.9p final dividend, making 1.7p (1.35p) for the year. The sale of the Zambian oilfield has been completed, giving rise to a profit of £54,000, which has been treated as an extraordinary item.

## Setback for S Daniels

An unprecedented margin squeeze after the abandonment of the International Coffee Organization's price arrangements saw profits of S Daniels all but halved in the year ended December. There were also problems with other products and dollar movements had an adverse effect. Pretax profits fell from £1.01 million to £572,000 on turnover of £39.6 million (£38.9 million).

The group, which came to the stock market 16 months ago after a placing at 130p, aims to prove that 1987 was a temporary setback and says it will resume growth this year. The balance sheet is strong, and related acquisitions are planned. A final dividend of 2p makes 3.25p for its first full year as a quoted company. The shares were 2p easier at 86p.

## Barrett leaps to £1.38m

Henry Barrett Group, the steel buildings-to-materials handling group, doubled profits in the six months to end-February, from £675,000 to £1.38 million. Turnover was up 60 per cent at £20.8 million. The interim dividend is 1.1p, out of 4.81p-a-share earnings. Barrett has made four buys since its stock market launch last May.

## Merlin up to £1.5m

Merlin International Properties made £1.5 million pretax profits in the six months to the end of December against £244,848 in the previous first half. Turnover rose to £1.3 million from £203,898 and total income to £3.3 million from £496,000. Negotiations are under way for property disposals which will have a significant impact on the full-year profits.

## Pearson earnings deserve attention

While the Kuwait Investment Office was building its stake in British Petroleum, BP lost little time in expressing its view that anything above 20 per cent would cause discomfort. The KIO now owns more than 22 per cent of BP. Pearson's Lord Blakenham, equally, has made known his view that stakes as large as 15 per cent are inherently destabilizing, but this has not deterred Mr Rupert Murdoch's company. The News Corporation, which has amassed just over 20 per cent of Pearson.

Pearson has some protection from outright takeover in the shape of its interests in Lazard Brothers and the Financial Times. The Bank of England would have a say in any change in ownership of the merchant bank.

Further, because of the special rules concerning influence over national newspapers, if any shareholder were to buy 25 per cent of Pearson, an automatic inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading would be triggered.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that the group is bid-proof.

As it is not immediately obvious who could come up with the likely £2 billion-plus price tag, investors should not lose sight of the group's earnings prospects for the next year or so. Black clouds are still darkening financial markets, giving grounds for

expecting some slowing in the 20 per cent annual growth in earnings of the last five years.

On the plus side, there will be big contributions from the £163 million purchase of Addison-Wesley publishing, the US educational publisher. Then there will be the benefits of the 400 redundancies on the printing side, which could yield about £17 million in a full year, perhaps £10 million this year.

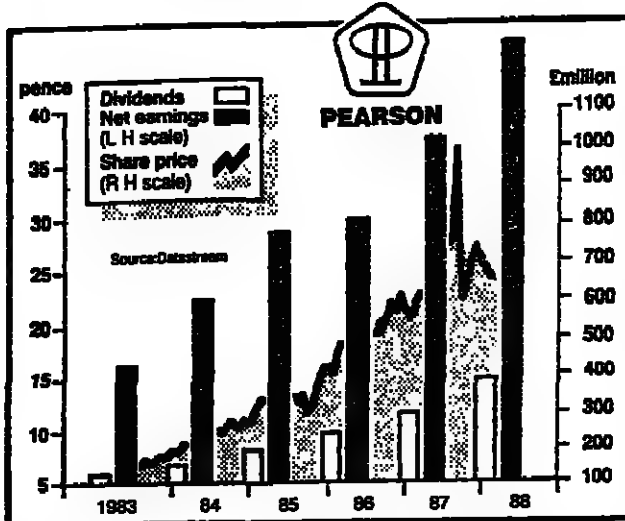
On the minus side, however, there is the weakness of the US dollar, and the possibility that financial advertising revenue could start to slip.

Interest costs, a big plus factor in last year's results after the sale of Bracken House, will reverse again this year. Year-end debt could rise to £200 million, giving a £15 million interest charge.

Profits in 1988 therefore could be held back to £162 million, just 7 per cent up on last year. The prospective multiple of 13.6 looks a little high, unless a bid materializes.

## Steetley

How appropriate that Steetley, arguably the most improved building materials company this decade, should have secured its position as France's leading aggregates producer by buying a handful of quarries from the makers of Perrier water, a product which has itself taken off during the 1980s.



Steetley's 1987 results reflect the overall buoyancy of the construction industry, particularly in Britain, now accounting for two-thirds of trading profits.

Volumes, and to a lesser extent prices, were firm but increasing operational efficiencies, additional capacity and economies of scale also had an impact.

The sale of the Canadian distribution business released money to reinvest in France and relieved the group of a business that did not fit the overall strategy. The same is so for the chemicals trading business also now sold.

Acquisitions made during 1987 added £0.5 million to profits, but this year they should more than make up the

£4 million lost from discontinued activities.

Gearing at 17 per cent and a reasonable rating give the group the scope to make acquisitions for paper or for cash.

Whilst acknowledging that last October's stock market crash should not be disregarded, Steetley has not noticed any softening of demand. The current year has started well with trading levels well ahead of last year. The relatively element weather will have had an effect but underlying demand also remains strong.

Steetley's earnings have grown by 27 per cent compound over the last five years. Until recently the group was still cluttered up with busi-

nesses, legacies of Steetley's chemicals, distribution and engineering activities. Now however, the company can stand tall as a well-balanced construction materials group with more than an embryonic exposure of the international scene.

Steetley has a clear focus and as a result a more obvious attractions as an investment.

The rating on a 1988 pretax profit of about £70 million leaves the shares on a discount to the market of more than 10 per cent, much in line with the sector. This is fair given the improving quality of earnings. Steetley remains one of the more interesting second-line building material stocks.

## Slough Estates

If, as some property analysts insist, it is industrial property rather than retail or office property which is going to be the runner this year, then Slough Estates Britain's largest industrial property developer is worth a second look.

Market reaction to 1987 results was an 11p slide to 264p, partly because the growth in net asset value was not as high as had been expected, and partly because of the profits makeup.

The pretax profits at £61.8 million against £49.6 million owed more to sharply higher

trading profits (up from £1.8 million to £12 million) than real growth on the property investment front. However, a net worth appreciation of 25.9 per cent to 287p a share is not to be scoffed at.

Market circumstances dictated that 1987 was the year in which Slough should be more active on the property trading front. But seen against the balance sheet valuation of £104.9 million for its trading properties (against £85.7 million last year) the proportion of trading profits is not so disproportionate.

Budget changes on capital gains tax means a £100 million potential flip to Slough Estates and because industrial demand remains buoyant, another year of progress is in sight.

There is also little reason why the rate of dividend growth—12.3 per cent in 1987 to 7.3p a share—should not be maintained. Meanwhile, estimates of where net asset value goes this year range between 340p and 350p a share.

The current discount is therefore a shade short of 25 per cent.

The 52 per cent stake in Bredero Properties brought in £3.7 million at the pretax level and should again serve Slough Estates well, and generally rental levels are running well ahead of inflation.

Pretax profits should reach the £69 million level in 1988. Hold.

## Jardine Strategic lists profits of HK\$524m

By Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Jardine Strategic Holdings, the cornerstone of the Kewick family's Hong Kong empire, yesterday declared after-tax profits of HK\$524 million (£36.23 million) for year-end December 1987.

Jardine Strategic was set up at the end of 1986 as an investment vehicle.

Its portfolio consists of 25.2 per cent of the Crown Colony's biggest property firm, Hong Kong Land, 31.1 per

cent of trading firm Jardine Matheson, 40 per cent of retailing group Dairy Farm and 35.2 per cent of Mandarin Oriental, the international hotel group.

The Bermuda-domiciled company is to pay a final dividend of nine Hong Kong cents for each ordinary share, and 35 cents for each preferred ordinary share, which makes the total for the year 15 cents and 50 cents respectively.

## InterCity aims for £17m profit within two years as government subsidy ends

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail's InterCity passenger express sector will cease to receive any government subsidy from this Friday, for the first time since it was established 22 years ago.

Dr John Prideaux, director of InterCity for the past two years, faces the task of turning a current loss of about £100,000 a year into a profit of £17 million within two years.

He said it would be "quite an achievement" to meet the target of profitability.

He aims to gain profitability by reducing costs and generating extra revenue by improving the service. But some critics say that service standards are being sacrificed to meet the financial objectives, while others contend that the increases pitched at above the rate of inflation are in danger of pricing InterCity out of the reach of many people.

The facts do not appear to support the idea that InterCity is pricing itself out of the market. Revenue is rising

more rapidly than fares, and traffic is estimated to have increased from 7.8 billion passenger miles in 1986-87 to 8.3 billion in the current financial year.

In support of public criticism of poor service quality, it is cited that in 1986-87 only 77 per cent of InterCity trains arrived at their destination within five minutes of their scheduled time. However, an easing of the punctuality target to make the number of arrivals within 10 minutes of the scheduled time the test of punctuality, will give a much more respectable appearance for the future.

The critics also complain of overcrowding with large numbers of people having to stand for long distances, particularly on Fridays. On the credit side InterCity can claim to be reliable as it runs more than 99 per cent of its advertised services.

InterCity is facing problems from inadequate investment

in the past, and from demand fluctuating much more rapidly than capacity can be adjusted to meet it.

InterCity has an investment programme of about £600 million over the next five years which Dr Prideaux estimates is about as much as he can constructively spend in that period. Of that total, £190 million will go on new locomotives and carriages, £120 million on improved passenger facilities at stations, and £100 million on improved signalling.

This investment will yield substantial benefits for passengers. The electrification of the East Coast main line from London to Edinburgh is due for completion in 1991, which will produce significantly faster journey times. New electric locomotives will be introduced on the electrified West Coast route to Scotland.

The standards at many InterCity stations have improved out of all recognition.

Journey times are being reduced with almost every revision of the timetables and more Pullman and sleeper services are being introduced.

Dr Prideaux says there is no single route to profitability. It will be achieved by many measures to cut costs, as for example, a £19 million saving through new methods of track maintenance, and by stimulating passenger demand through improved service.

In the short-term capacity problems will be eased by such measures as retaining in service this year 160 carriages which were to have been phased out.

On routes to the west, from Paddington, London, which has been subject of bitter complaints about overcrowding, an extra 1,000 seats are to be provided at evening rush hours from Monday to Thursday from May, and a further 1,000 are planned to be made available in May next year.

## Swire Pacific Limited

## 1987 Final Results

The profit for 1987 was HK\$2,396.1 million, an increase of 34.3% over 1986. There were no extraordinary items in 1987 (1986 HK\$1,382.2 million profit). The audited consolidated results for the year ended 31st December 1987 were:

	1987 HK\$M	1986 HK\$M
Turnover	20,188.4	16,603.6
Operating profit	4,586.4	2,929.2
Net finance charges	458.4	168.2
Net operating profit	4,107.0	2,761.0
Share of profits less losses of associated companies	178.8	115.1
Profit before taxation	4,285.8	2,876.1
Taxation	715.3	474.2
Profit after taxation	3,570.5	2,401.9
Minority interests	1,174.4	517.2
Profit for the year before extraordinary item	2,396.1	1,784.7
Extraordinary item	—	1,382.2
Profit attributable to shareholders	2,396.1	3,166.9
Earnings per share: 'A' shares	153.3¢	115.8¢
'B' shares	30.7¢	23.2¢
Dividends per share: 'A' shares — interim	19.00	15.00
— final, recommended	43.00	36.70
'B' shares — interim	3.8¢	3.0¢
— final, recommended	8.6¢	7.3¢
	12.4¢	10.3¢
Net assets per share: 'A' shares	HK\$9.51	HK\$5.78
'B' shares	HK\$1.90	HK\$1.16

The profit for 1987 increased by 34.3%. Earnings per share, which have been calculated by reference to the profit before profit before extraordinary item and the weighted average number of shares in issue during each year, have been adjusted to reflect the capitalisation issue made in June 1987. Dividends for 1986 and net assets per share have been similarly adjusted.

Cathay Pacific Airways Limited reported attributable profits 71.4% higher than those of 1986. Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company's attributable profit increased by 20.6%. Swire Properties' results were again appreciably higher than those of the previous year. Shipping, offshore services, and dockyard activities showed welcome signs of recovery. Profits within the industries division were at a lower level than in the previous year. The trading division had a very good year.

**Final dividends.** The directors of Swire Pacific Limited will recommend to shareholders at the annual general meeting on 26th May 1988 the payment of final dividends of 43.00¢ (1986: 36.70¢) per 'A' share and 8.6¢ (1986: 7.3¢) per 'B' share payable on 1st June 1988 to shareholders registered on 29th April 1988; the share registers will be closed from 20th April to 29th April 1988, both dates inclusive.

Once again, the final dividends will be satisfied by the issue of scrip to each class of shareholder, with the option being given to shareholders to elect to receive cash in lieu of scrip in respect of part or all of such dividends. Full details of the scrip dividend procedures will be set out in a circular letter which, together with the forms of election for the payment of cash dividends, will be sent to shareholders on 4th May 1988.

**Investment properties and net assets per share.** In accordance with the policy of the Group, the annual valuation at open market value of investment properties was carried out at 31st December 1987 by professionally qualified executives of Swire Properties. As a consequence of the 1987 valuation there has been an increase of HK\$4,023.1 million in the valuation reserves of the Group, as compared with an increase of HK\$634.0 million at the end of 1986. Taking into account both the retained earnings in 1987 and the increase in the valuation of investment properties, the net asset values of the shares of Swire Pacific at 31st December 1987 were HK\$9.51 per 'A' share and HK\$1.90 per 'B' share, which compare respectively with HK\$5.78 and HK\$1.16 at 31st December 1986.

**Financing.** Net borrowings at 31st December 1987 amounted to HK\$6,631.8 million compared with HK\$7,109.3 million a year earlier. This decrease was mainly attributable to a reduction of net borrowings within the property division which, to some extent, was offset by an increase in the net borrowings of Cathay Pacific Airways. Such increased borrowings arose mainly as a result of additional unrealised exchange differences, amounting to HK\$2,344.1 million, caused by the weakening during 1987 of the Hong Kong dollar against the currencies in which most of the borrowings of Cathay Pacific Airways are denominated; however, this was largely offset by a high level of cash received from airline operations together with receipts on the issue of new shares during the year.

Cathay Pacific Airways raises long-term finance in currencies in which it has substantial positive cash flows. This is done to avoid any need to purchase foreign exchange in order to settle the resulting repayment obligations. It also ensures that exchange fluctuations affecting the value of such obligations in those currencies are effectively hedged by corresponding, but offsetting, fluctuations affecting earnings. Forecast surplus foreign currency earnings exceed the relevant interest and loan repayment commitments in any year and hence a hedged position is maintained.

**Prospects.** The current year has started well for Cathay Pacific Airways and, given reasonably stable economic conditions, the airline continues to regard the future with confidence. Swire Properties expects further good results in 1988 both from properties under development and from its investment property portfolio. The industries division should record considerably improved results in 1988, whilst the trading and insurance divisions are also expected to register increases in profits. The shipping, offshore services, and dockyard division expects some improvement in its markets in 1988 leading to better results than have been achieved in recent years. Thus, prospects for the Swire Pacific Group as a whole for 1988 are generally encouraging.

The Annual Report for 1987 will be sent to shareholders on 4th May 1988.

H.M.P. Miles  
Chairman

Hong Kong, 24th March 1988

**Swire Pacific Limited**  
The Swire Group  
Swire House, Hong Kong.

## "Slough Estates has had another excellent year and prospects for 1988 are good"

REPORTS SIR NIGEL MOBBS, THE CHAIRMAN

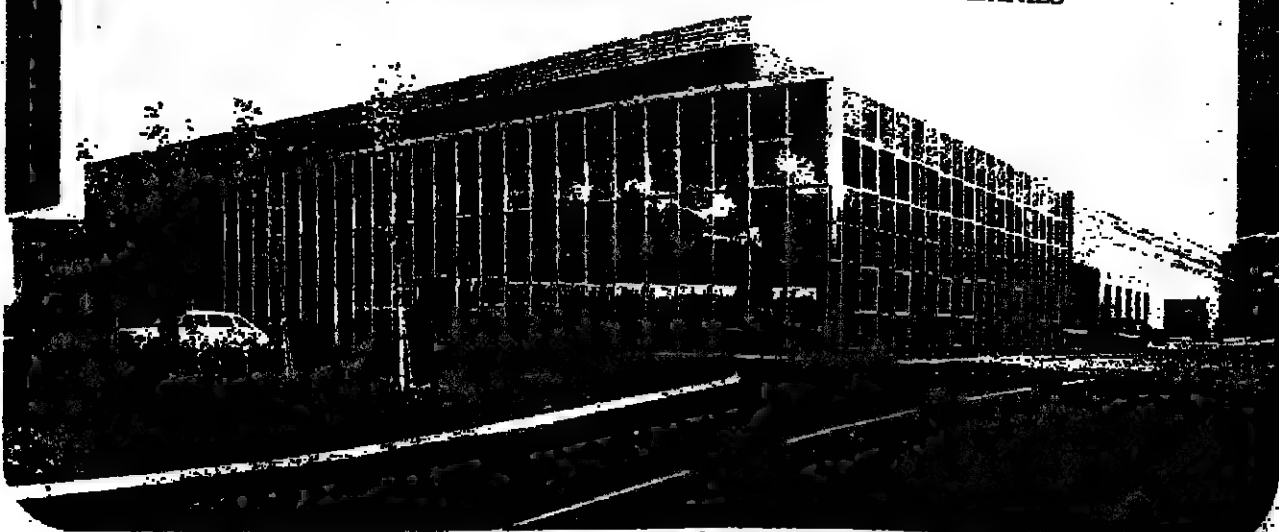
- Earnings and assets both show a significant improvement.
- Gross value of Group's properties now exceeds £1 billion.
- Demand for industrial and commercial property has been strong throughout the year.
- Construction completed during the year was just under 2 million square feet, with 1.34 million square feet overseas and 660,000 square feet in the UK.
- In the UK a portfolio of trading properties was sold for £30 million and investment properties were sold for £48 million. Overseas property sales totalled £47 million.
- The Group has a substantial worldwide development programme totalling £550 million including Bredero Properties of which £430 million is in the UK and £120 million is overseas.
- The Group possesses the strength and resources to carry out this programme successfully.
- Prospects for 1988 are good.

	1987	1986	Increase
Profit before tax	£61.8m	£49.6m	+24.6%
Profit attributable to shareholders	£42.8m	£36.7m	+16.6%
Earnings per share	15.6p	13.8p	+13.0%
Dividend per share	7.3p	6.5p	+12.3%
Net assets per share	287p	228p	+25.9%

To obtain a copy of the 1987 Preliminary Announcement and the 1987 Annual Report, to be published in April, please write to the Secretary, Slough Estates plc, 234 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4EE.

**SLOUGH ESTATES**

ONE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY COMPANIES



**International Factors**  
The perfect partner for the growing market







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## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

DOLLAR SPOT RATES				
6075	Denmark	6.3730-6.3780	Italy	1231.0-1233.0
5900	Germany	1.6939-1.6945	Belgium (Com)	34.80-34.85
5905	Switzerland	1.47-1.3757	Hong Kong	7.8025-7.8035
5880	Netherlands	1.8695-1.8695	Portugal	138.20-138.70
5395	France	5.6380-5.6410	Spain	111.08-111.18
2655	Japan	124.20-124.30	Austria	11.69-11.70

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Bank of America

[illegible]

GOLD

BULLION									
Open: \$453.50-454.00 Close: \$454.00-454.50									
High: \$455.25-454.75 Low: \$453.25-453.50									
COMES					Per cmt (Ex VAT)				
Straits: \$457.50-472.50 (\$252.00-254.00)									
Krugersand: \$482.75-492.75 (\$254.00-245.00)									
Maurit: (1/oz) \$467.50-475.50 (\$252.00-255.00)									
American Eagles: \$467.50-475.50 (\$252.00-254.00)									
New Sovereigns: \$717.00-104.00 (\$257.50-25.25)									
Old Sovereigns: \$717.00-104.50 (\$257.50-25.50)									
Palladium: \$123.50 (\$26.5)									
Silver: \$6.65-6.65 (\$2.570-3.585)									
ICE-LOR Group									
Crude cargo off its late Friday night in almost non-accepting type Monday morning and then proceeded to addline for the rest of the day. CRUDE prices firmed as good oil the way in national activity.									
CRUDE OILS/seasoned (BURL CO)									
Brent	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
15 day	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
15 day	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
15 day	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI May	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jun	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jul	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Aug	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Sep	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Oct	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Nov	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Dec	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jan	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Feb	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Mar	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Apr	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI May	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jun	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jul	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Aug	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Sep	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Oct	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Nov	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Dec	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jan	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Feb	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Mar	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Apr	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI May	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jun	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jul	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Aug	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Sep	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Oct	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Nov	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Dec	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jan	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Feb	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Mar	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Apr	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI May	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jun	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jul	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Aug	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Sep	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Oct	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Nov	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Dec	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jan	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Feb	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Mar	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Apr	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI May	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jun	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jul	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Aug	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Sep	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Oct	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Nov	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Dec	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Jan	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Feb	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
WTI Mar	15	35	30	30	15	35	30	30	15
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## NONFINANCIAL ENTITY

**BANKS, DISCO**

## LONDON METAL

*[The page contains extremely faint, illegible markings.]*







## TECHNOLOGY/1

The British government still has a last chance to join part of the long term European space programme, which it rejected totally last November. The decision would add little to Britain's current spending of £116 million a year on space, and would be funded partly by money released from projects reaching their end.

More important, the UK needs to grasp the opportunity, otherwise the spending of £10 million on a new National Remote Sensing Centre, at Farnborough, in Hampshire, will be a waste of money.

If the Government fails on this collaborative research venture with Europe, it will slam the door for British industry on and area of application of space technology that will eventually become a private-sector activity.

The issues are certain to be aired tomorrow, when the House of Lords debates the report, *United Kingdom Space Policy*, from its committee on science and technology. But the point of no return comes on April 12, when a meeting of the European Space Agency will let the industrial contracts that have been accepted by a group known as the Columbus Programme Board.

The name Columbus is given to four projects aimed at developing new applications in space technology. One is a big satellite called the Polar Platform, designed for continuous observation of our planet: monitoring the environ-

## PERSPECTIVE

# Last call for a UK place in space

By Pearce Wright

Science editor

ment, providing data to exploit the earth's mineral and renewable resources, as well as providing warning of potential hazards on land, at sea and in the atmosphere.

Design work for the Polar Platform has been led by British Aerospace. But under the space agency's rules, the contract to build the satellite must go to one of the 12 European countries taking part in the European Long Term Space Programme.

Britain's return to the Columbus part of the programme, for about an extra £15

million a year, excludes any commitment to the high-spending projects, which provoked such a shudder in Number 10 last year.

Mrs Thatcher is known to be attracted to the high-technology benefits of space, but to resist open-ended proposals that carry the threat of spiralling costs, which is how the British government sees the French-inspired Hermes manned shuttle, another section of the programme.

Though Concorde now makes handsome profits, the development phase when costs seem to be spiralling

without an end in sight has left deep scars in Whitehall. But it is the French who have devised a way of analysing ambitious projects for technological risks, commercial risks and time-scales.

At least one of those three factors has to be favourable to make a private-sector activity. Otherwise, it is a question of government funding, which of course depends on motivations.

As the Channel Tunnel shows, advances in technology, in this case in civil engineering, can reduce the technical risk and, as a consequence, a project's time-scale. Hence a wild aspiration first voiced a century ago has been transformed into a paying proposition. Similarly, the commercial prospects for earth observation by remote sensing from space is not too difficult to predict.

Weather satellites are perfect examples of observation vehicles, and demonstrate that the technical risk is low. But the market on the ground is still immature. Departments of defence are prime customers for observation data from space. But they cling to their own special satellites, and have yet to recognize that satellites can share defence and civil applications without compromising security.

Other government agencies are forming a growing boom of civil customers for using data from space in the development and planning of resources.



The Channel Tunnel: technology advances can reduce risks and thus a project's time-scale

## Long voyage of an old IBM

By Trevor Huggins

As IBM prepares to ship its latest 3090 monster mainframe and DEC puts the finishing touches to its quad-processor 8000 series, Czechoslovakia is still trying to figure out what these companies did more than 10 years ago.

Computer production in the Eastern bloc is both alive and well. The architecture which has dominated the West for more than a decade can be found throughout the Comecon countries.

The Czech industry is highly organised, with the government accounting for more than 90 per cent of production, through the Federal Ministry of Electrical Engineering. This, in turn, owns the national computer company ZVT, which produces IBM-compatible mainframes, DEC-compatible minicomputers and IBM PC clones.

For nostalgia buffs, Czechoslovakia is a veritable paradise. Prague University, for example, is still selling a 15-year-old ICL System 4/72, which refuses to die. Operated five days during the week, it is patched every Saturday and has Sunday off.

East European mainframe production is co-ordinated so that different countries are responsible for different parts of a system. A single range, called the United System, is based on IBM's S/370 computers of the previous decade. Czechoslovakia builds the entry-level EC 1027, equivalent to the 370/20, at its Prague mainframe centre.

The minister's chief adviser, Ivan Malec, says that because components are in

## Secret agreement on PCs revealed

Apple Computer and Microsoft have publicized a secret agreement made in 1985 that gives Microsoft the right to use certain visual displays available on Macintosh personal computers.

The news comes in the light of an Apple suit earlier this month against both Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, claiming copyright has been infringed. But the companies disagree on the limits of the agreement.

Earlier this month Apple sued Microsoft and the Hewlett-Packard Company, contending that Microsoft's Windows 2.03 program and Hewlett's New Wave program violate Apple's copyrights on the Macintosh displays.

Microsoft said it was confident that no visual displays in Windows 2.03 exceed the 1985 agreement, which applied to Windows, a program for the IBM personal computer and compatibles, and to various Microsoft programs for the Macintosh.

In the 1985 agreement, Microsoft acknowledged that the displays in those programs were derivative of the Macintosh. In return, Apple granted Microsoft "a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, perpetual, non-transferable license to use these derivative works in present and future software programs and to license them to and through third parties for use in their software programs."

William Neukom, Microsoft's vice president for law and corporate affairs, said: "We are pleased to have this agreement out in the open." He added that Microsoft would not change any plans regarding Windows as a result of the litigation.

But Apple contends that the agreement was limited to the visual displays in Version 1.0 of Windows, and that the Version 2.03 displays infringe on its copyrights. Carleen LeVasseur, an Apple spokeswoman, said: "We feel Microsoft has exceeded the limits of the agreement. As far back as mid-1986, they were advised that the agreement was limited to 1.0."

Because Windows 2.03 is visually nearly identical to Presentation Manager, the software that Microsoft is developing for the next generation of IBM PCs, some analysts say this lawsuit is a preliminary move for Apple.

If it is successful, they say, it will try to block that Macintosh-like product from reaching the market.

## At least half the production is destined for the hard-currency countries

short supply, the number of processors built is small - 100 a year. Reliability is a sensitive issue. In the West, a PC should start first time and a mainframe run smoothly after a few weeks.

In Czechoslovakia, Mr Malec said, "Reliability is a problem for the first three years, but afterwards it reaches a satisfactory level".

If IBM's mainframe technology has been reproduced with eastern-bloc components, so has Digital Equipment's PDP-11 and VAX minicomputers. Together, 400 to 500 of the DEC-styled machines are built each year. The only computers built in any real volume by ZVT are micros, which this year will be IBM-compatible.

Previously, ZVT built 8-bit machines with two 8in. disc drives and a proprietary operating system. Mr Malec said that both are based on a Soviet-manufactured micro-processor compatible with Intel's 286 chip.

Building microcomputers is not, however, the preserve of the ministry. An exotic assortment of semi-independent companies, ranging from engineers to agricultural co-operatives, are also showing an interest in the PC business. An office-equipment company, Kencalske Stroj, imports PC/XT and PC/AT kits from Hong Kong, for example, and a farming co-operative called Shusovice has started importing Taiwan kits.

Such firms will not be content with supplying the local market. At least half their production is destined for the hard-currency countries to the West. It is almost certain that later this year, British buyers will be offered PCs bearing the stamp "Made in Czechoslovakia".

Having started out from factories in Greenwich, Scotland, IBM's PC technology looks set to return after a very long journey.

## Benefit of a network

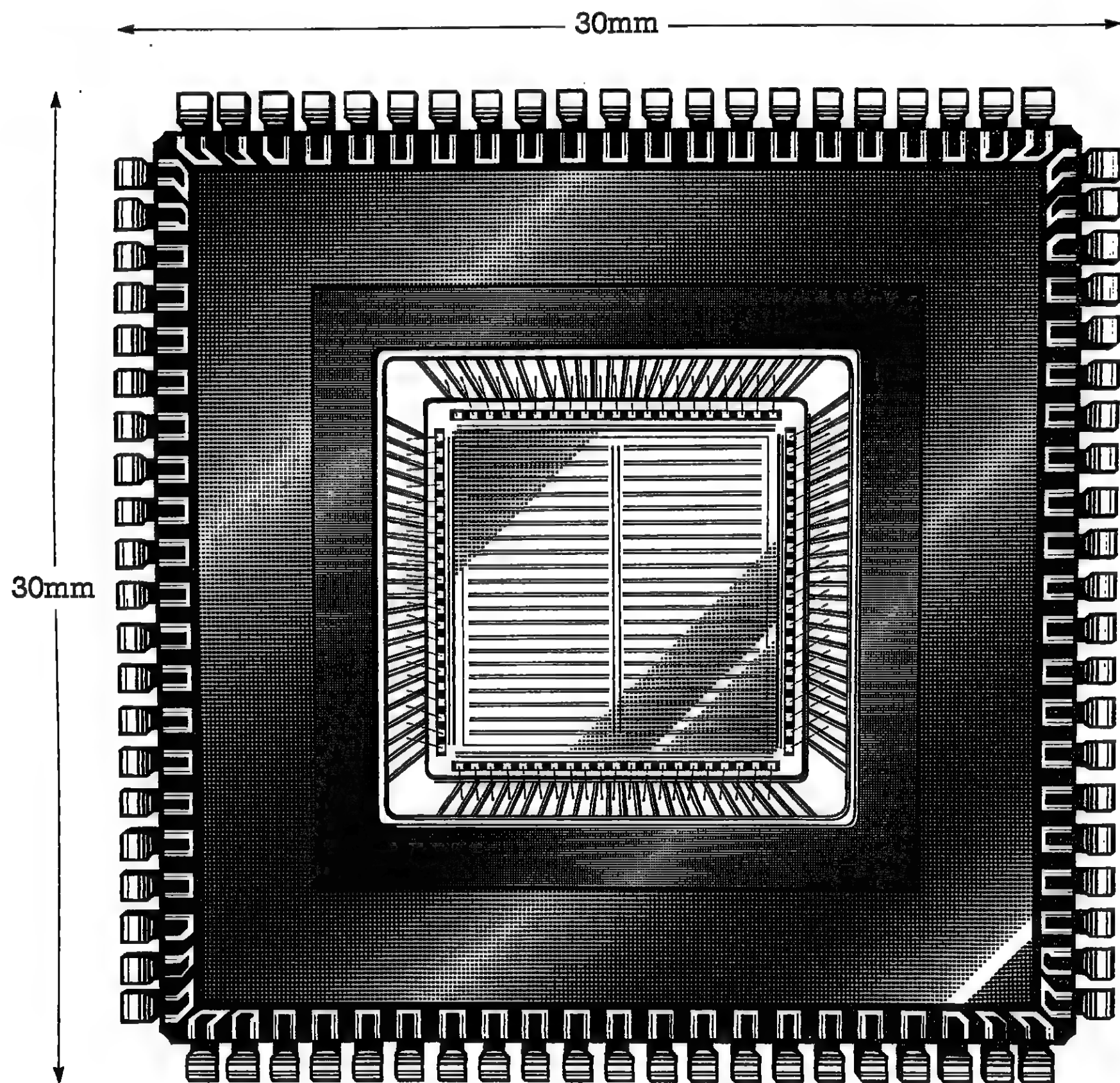
The computing network linking the UK's 1,000 benefit offices was officially inaugurated last week. It includes 10 mainframes, more than 900 minicomputers and printers and nearly 12,000 terminals. Known as TRES, terminal replacement system, the network is the biggest in Europe to comply with the specifications of open systems interconnection (OSI).

The £33 million contract was awarded to Honeywell Bull early in 1985 by the Department of Health and Social Security.

## 1.6 Gigabytes on-line storage!

That's the total storage capacity you can now access on a PC. IBM supply this in more manageable chunks of 200Mb in the form of WORM (Write Once Read Many) technology. A removable optical disk, read by laser giving unlimited storage at under £5 per Megabyte. A tidy solution for publishing, CAD, archiving etc. Now on demonstration at Morse.

MORSE Morse Computers, 78 High Holborn, London WC1. 01-831 0644. Telex 262546. Fax 01-831 1310.



## THIS DEVICE CAN REVOLUTIONISE YOUR BUSINESS

It's a custom silicon chip.

Tailor-made just for you. It can make your business even more competitive. More efficient. More profitable.

Because the custom silicon chip performs better. Improving your product. Making it easier to manufacture. More reliable. Your design is unique. Secure from prying eyes. Uses fewer components, and costs less.

Given all this, don't you think you ought to post the coupon right away?

Your competitors certainly will.

I understand that using custom silicon is now cheaper and easier than ever before. Please tell me more.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company activity \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Custom Silicon Now,  
Freepost, Box Number 48,  
London, SE1 7DU.

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# TECHNOLOGY/2

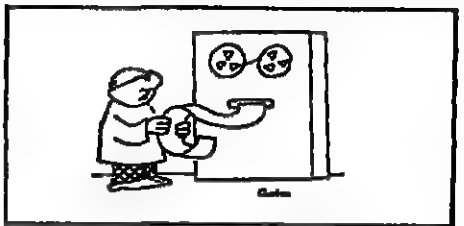
## Write a caption and go to the Tropics

**T**o err is human, but to fool things up properly, you need a computer... as we wrote last year, the old ones are still the best. Somewhere in almost every organization is someone who has been unwittingly made to look a fool by a computer. Many would like to get their own back.

Now that the beasts can communicate, the capability to fool things can spread planet-wide like the most virulent of viruses.

Last year, The Times/CMG computing humour competition sought evidence of a connection between information technology and jocularly. This year, all we are asking you to do is to provide a new caption to an illustration that we will provide. It should preferably be one that is computing, new technology or IT-related, whichever you care to lean towards.

Each week there will be two illustrations to pick from, each of which will carry its original caption. You need think of a new caption for only one of them, though you may submit as



"I'll thank you to stop referring to me as 'protoplasm head'"

many captions as you please for either or both, using a coupon in each case.

### The prizes:

● The first prize is a week for two on the island of Rension in the Indian Ocean - France in the Tropics - and even your wine bill is paid for.

● Three second prizes: long weekends with two nights in beautifully fitted and comfortable hotels, with all travel paid. We give you a choice of four islands: Jersey in the Channel, Skye and Mull off the west coast of Scotland, and the spa centre of Heligoland off the north-west coast of Germany.

In addition, the winners and runners-up - the best of the rest - will receive suitably inscribed and framed copies of the cartoons which show both the original and the new captions. For the runners up there will be the consolation of something to toast the recognition.

### How to enter:

Cut out the appropriate cartoon shown here and the Times/CMG competition logo at the top of this page, write your captions clearly on a sheet of paper and attach to the appropriate cartoon with the logo, and then add your name and address and day-time phone number (if any). Send your entry to: The Times/CMG Humour Competition, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, to arrive no later than Tuesday April 5. The first of the weekly winners will be announced on April 12 - two

weeks from today - when we shall publish the winning entry and a selection of the first week's entries considered worthy of publication and deserving a runner's-up framed cartoon.

Further selections will be published on the two following Tuesdays with in each case, a weekly winner and runners-up. The last week's winning entries will be published on May 3 when we shall also announce the first prize for the best of the four weeks' entries.

The winners' lunch will be in London on May 17. The winners unable to attend will be sent a generous voucher for lunch at a local restaurant at a time of their choice.

### The rules:

1. The prizes will be awarded to the entrants whose contributions are, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted.

2. All entries should be original, as far as the entrant is aware, although appropriate existing phrases that are familiar and fit are allowable.

3. Any number of entries may be submitted, provided The Times/CMG logo is attached to every one.

4. The competition is not open to employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and its associated companies or CMG Computer Management Group (UK) Ltd or any of its subsidiaries, and those employees' families.

5. The judges' decisions will be at all times final and no correspondence will be entered into.

6. Entries are not returnable.

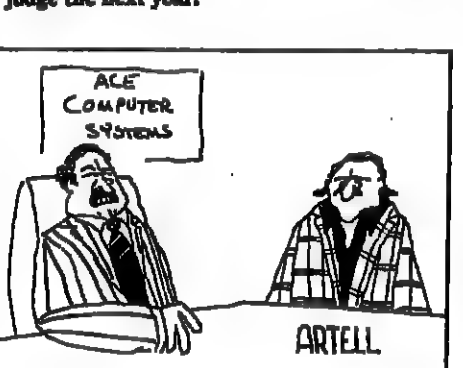
### The judges:

● Heinz Woolf, director, Brunel Institute for Bioengineering publicly best known for his investigation of the long-running BBC Television Series, *The Great Egg Race*.

● John Riach, a National Director of CMG Computer Management Group UK Ltd.

● Rex Malik, technology journalist, collector of jokes and setter of this competition.

Roger Penwill, architect and winner of last year's The Times/CMG Computing Humour competition. We hope that it will become a tradition that one year's winner will become a judge the next year.



"Your system hasn't been delivered because of a parts shortage. The part we're short of is your cheque"



HUMOUR COMPETITION

WEEK ONE

## A quiet chuckle from the CMG

What's so funny about CMG? After all, the company, 25 next year, has a rather sober public reputation.

When Bob Fewcott, Doug Gorman and Brian Mills founded Computer Management Group, they had to learn to repress their sense of humour.

Computer bureaux and computer management services were thought of as branches of accountancy, and demanded appropriate behaviour and suitable public gravitas from their practitioners.

After last year's sponsorship by CMG of our computing humour competition, there were some who hinted they did not think jokes were CMG's strong suit.

CMG can afford a quiet chuckle now. This year the group entered *The Times* 1,000 list and did so at position 1,000, where one gets noticed.

They are not only Europe's largest independent computer-services management company, but the only one on that list to be owned entirely by active employees and their dependents.

They have 1,200 staff, with a turnover in 1987 of a little over £60 million, a 16 per cent increase over 1986, and a profit before tax of £5.8 million, a rise of 25 per cent. More than 50 per cent of revenues are realized abroad, mostly on the Continent. Headquarters are in the Netherlands.

That leaves CMG confident that we can generate a laugh or two out of situations which provide their bread and butter.

## A magic factory at their touch



Associate professor Joe Beaman, right, shows a plastic model created by Carl Deckard

A new process that allows a three-dimensional computer drawing to be automatically turned into physical objects has been developed by a graduate student at the University of Texas.

It is seen as the first step towards the sort of computer manufacturing envisaged by science fiction writers where consumers will be able to request a product from their computer and have it instantly manufactured.

So far inventor Carl Deckard's process produces plastic models but the system is likely to have almost immediate commercial applications in designing intricate three-dimensional prototypes within minutes of a design being finished on a computer.

When the process becomes more sophisticated it holds out the promise of considerably reducing the cost of making prototypes for industrial parts or scale models for architectural projects.

The process, called "selective laser sintering" uses granulated plastic, or similar substances, poured into a tank about the same size as a computer terminal.

Thin layers of the plastic powder are steadily built up with a computer controlled

laser beam heating certain areas of each layer until it melts into a solid shape.

A roller mechanism moves over the layers keeping the plastic smooth. Unwanted parts of each layer stay in

**'You could feed the measurements into the computer, let the machine make the wax model, then use the lost wax process to cast it'**

powder form and can be simply removed.

The system can also be used to make moulds. "Just think of designing a piece of sculpture" says Mr Deckard's associate professor, Joe Beaman.

"You could feed the measurements into the computer, let the machine make the wax model, then use the lost wax process to cast it."

"There is no limit to the kinds of things we can do with this product once it is fully developed."

Dubbed "desktop manufacturing", designs can be fed in from conventional computer-aided-design software and the models can include complex internal shapes - hollow cubes within other cubes for example.

So far the examples produced have been about the size of a cigarette packet but Mr Deckard believes the precision and size of the objects could be much larger or smaller.

An application for a patent for the process has been filed and the university has given exclusive licensing rights to a local firm which has formed a new company - Nova Automation - in conjunction with the university to exploit the technology.

Other firms in the US are also working on similar projects, said Dr Beaman, with one - from California-based 3D Systems - expected to deliver the first of its £90,000 systems in May.

It is being tested by General Motors and Kodak.

Other processes based on liquids and metals are also being investigated though Dr Beaman argues their powder based system will be less expensive and more sophisticated.

### EVENTS

● Computers in Retailing, Metropole Hotel, Brighton (01-834 1717)

● Scottish Computer Show, April 12-14, Glasgow (01-891 5051)

● Computer Recruitment Fair, April 15-16, New Century Hall, Manchester (0491 581010)

● Atari User Show, April 22-24, West Hall, Alexandra Park, London (0625 878888)

● Computer Recruitment Fair, April 22-23, Watershed, Bristol (0491 681010)

● British Electronics Week, April 26-28, Olympia, London

● Computers in Manufacturing, May 10-12, Olympia, London (0872 372842)

● Copiers 88, May 24-26, Business Design Centre, London (01-840 8085)

● Armatron Computer Show, May 25-28, Great Hall, Alexandra Park, London (0625 878888)

● Computer Recruitment Fair, July 1-2, Rainbow Rooms, London (0491 581010)

● Armatron Computer Show, October 21-23, Windsor Hall, GMEC, Manchester (0625 878888)

## Jobs are developing but the skills are still lagging behind demand

### RECRUITMENT

By Geoff Wheelwright

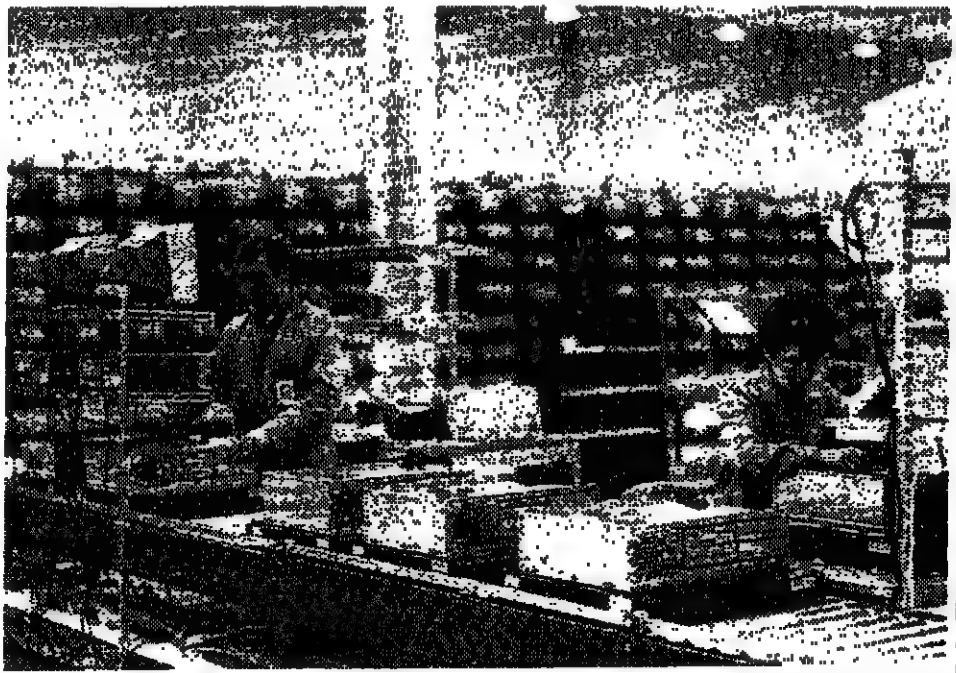
Technology-related jobs in Britain are on the increase, but some industry experts say that great changes will be required to educational and management planning if the growth is to continue.

The type of growth taking place is perhaps typified by the opening of Compaq's new £16 million personal computer manufacturing plant at Erskine, Scotland, earlier this month.

The facility will eventually employ more than 350 people and the company promises to buy most of the materials and components from local Scottish suppliers.

Murray Francois, managing director of Compaq Computer Manufacturing, said the company is pleased with the level of professionalism in the local staff it has hired. He added: "If those to come match the high level of those already recruited, this will be another confirmation of how right we were to locate in Scotland."

But according to Ian Ashworth, a London-based head-hunter for high-technology companies, the UK still has a lot to do if it is to offer



Compaq's new £16 million personal computer manufacturing plant at Erskine, Scotland

enough skilled professionals to meet an ever-increasing demand.

He suggests the problem is particularly acute among those with both technical and management skills.

"Inevitably," he said, "this country went along with every other western industrialized country in finding enough

well-qualified engineers in all spheres, but it is difficult enough to find a managing director for a high-technology firm at the moment without then compounding that problem by requiring them also to be an engineer.

"The problem is that we don't have enough graduate engineers coming into the jobs market in sufficient quantity."

To rectify this skills shortage, Mr Ashworth recommends a revamping of the schools system with children being encouraged to develop skills in scientific subjects much earlier in their educational careers.

He said that high-technology companies should be helping to bring about this change themselves.

"Companies should provide equipment at schools on a voluntary basis, should give talks to schools, provide tours of their facilities - and generally given encouragement to enter into industry in an engineering capacity," he added.

"Children with skills should be sponsored by companies so that he or she must come out of university and must work with that company for up to three years - or perhaps 12 to 18 months with one company and the rest with another non-competitive firm."

That is not, however, the view of John Inlay, president of MSA, a big US software firm. He recently gave a speech to the Scottish Institute

of Directors on the use of technology in industry.

The real changes had to come about within industry at the board level. This was already happening in the United States, he added, where many companies now have a chief information officer (CIO), who sits on the board of directors.

Despite the rise of data-processing people to board level, Mr Inlay believes that board members themselves are no longer as accepting of statements about technology made by the CIO and his or her staff.

"There is no more mystery man, instead there is a business vision," he said of the operation of modern US boards of directors.

"The role of information technology is now played as a competitive weapon in industry, rather than an internal company service."

"You beat the competition with systems that get information quicker to do work better - the computer becomes the heartbeat of the company rather than just a service tool."

Mr Inlay also suggested that any slowness in the use of technology throughout the company comes from the top - not the bottom.

He said: "Still fewer than 1 per cent of CEOs use a personal computer and the rest wait until you make it extremely easy."



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Long voyage of an old IBM

By Trevor Hughes

As IBM prepares to ship its latest 3090 monster mainframe and DEC puts the latest 3000 series, Compaq's 386 is still trying to get out what these companies have more than 10 years ago.

Computer production in the Eastern bloc is both alive and well. The architecture which has dominated the West for more than a decade can be found throughout the Communist countries.

The Czech industry is highly organised, with government accounting for more than 90 per cent of production, through the Ministry of Electronics Engineering. This is in turn the national computer company ZVT, which produces IBM-compatible mainframes, DEC-compatible mini-computers and IBM

For nostalgia buffs, Czechoslovakia is a veritable mecca. Prague University, for example, is still selling a 1960s ICL System 40, which refuses to die. Opened during the war, it is now being used for teaching on a Sunday off.

East European mainframe production is co-ordinated by different countries in different ways. A single system, for example, the United States' IBM's S/360, is produced in the Czech Republic, the Soviet Union, and Poland. The latter's child, the M-4, is a more complex machine.

The minister's child, the M-4, is a more complex machine.

At least half the production is destined for the hard-currency countries.

Compaq's 386 is still trying to get out what these companies have more than 10 years ago.

Technology-related jobs in Britain are on the increase, but some industry experts say that great changes will be required to educational and management planning if the growth is to continue.

The type of growth taking place is perhaps typified by the opening of Compaq's new £16 million personal computer manufacturing plant at Erskine, Scotland, earlier this month.

The facility will eventually employ more than 350 people and the company promises to buy most of the materials and components from local Scottish suppliers.

Murray Francois, managing director of Compaq Computer Manufacturing, said the company is pleased with the level of professionalism in the local staff it has hired. He added: "If those to come match the high level of those already recruited, this will be another confirmation of how right we were to locate in Scotland."

But according to Ian Ashworth, a London-based head-hunter for high-technology companies, the UK still has a lot to do if it is to offer

enough skilled professionals to meet an ever-increasing demand.

He suggests the problem is particularly acute among those with both technical and management skills.

"Inevitably," he said, "this country went along with every other western industrialized country in finding enough

well-qualified engineers in all spheres, but it is difficult enough to find a managing director for a high-technology firm at the moment without then compounding that problem by requiring them also to be an engineer.

"The problem is that we don't have enough graduate engineers coming into the jobs market in sufficient quantity."

To rectify this skills shortage, Mr Ashworth recommends a revamping of the schools system with children being encouraged to develop skills in scientific subjects much earlier in their educational careers.

He said that high-technology companies should be helping to bring about this change themselves.

"Companies should provide equipment at schools on a voluntary basis, should give talks to schools, provide tours of their facilities - and generally given encouragement to enter into industry in an engineering capacity," he added.

"Children with skills should be sponsored by companies so that he or she must come out of university and must work with that company for up to three years - or perhaps 12 to 18 months with one company and the rest with another non-competitive firm."

That is not, however, the view of John Inlay, president of MSA, a big US software firm. He recently gave a speech to the Scottish Institute

of Directors on the use of technology in industry.

The real changes had to come about within industry at the board level. This was already happening in the United States, he added, where many companies now have a chief information officer (CIO), who sits on the board of directors.

Despite the rise of data-processing people to board level, Mr Inlay believes that board members themselves are no longer as accepting of statements about technology made by the CIO and his or her staff.

"There is no more mystery man, instead there is a business vision," he said of the operation of modern US boards of directors.

"The role of information technology is now played as a competitive weapon in industry, rather than an internal company service."

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Mr Inlay also suggested that any slowness in the use of technology throughout the company comes from the top - not the bottom.

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# TECHNOLOGY/4

## JOBS

### The chemistry doesn't work

By Caroline Berman

Whether it's for ethical or any other reasons, the pharmaceutical industry is finding it very difficult to recruit staff for its computer divisions.

"We've lost five people in four months and are trying to recruit," said David Lamb, data processing manager at Merck Sharp and Dohme.

"I don't see it as the pharmaceutical industry, but more as a manufacturing company. The advantages are the company benefits and exciting projects, such as communications between different machines."

Mr Lamb says the computer systems are as in any other manufacturing industry — with financial systems, stock

good experienced staff so we've developed a policy of recruiting graduates and training them.

Mr Branch admitted that one of the problems was the location, in Welwyn: "Welwyn is expensive and competes with central London. There are none of the benefits of living in a cheap place, but no high salaries either."

But there are compensations: "It's a high tech business. It tends to keep up to date and is very competitive. It provides a good place to learn about computing."

Another view is given by a North American manager. He has worked in the UK for two years and believes the problems of the pharmaceutical industry are symptomatic of several areas of British computing. He is distinctly unimpressed with the quality of British staff available.

"I was appalled by the level of technical incompetence here. I had to bring in foreign engineers to get things done," he said. "I hired someone who was Japanese and because of his technical skill and work ethics he does the job of four people."

He also complains it is difficult to find competent middle managers. "There is a casual and biased approach to business," he says. "I work for rewards based on performance. In Britain rewards are

### Rewards given for longevity in UK

for longevity, not performance. It's very upsetting.

"The British don't want to find out why something won't work, they just moan about things. They are non-reactive. The British have more good ideas than elsewhere but executing them and bringing them to market is another matter."

Many will disagree with such a bleak view but there are others who believe that the chronic shortage of skilled information technology staff does little to raise standards.

### Training their own graduates

control, production planning, scheduling and quality control, although there are also clinical trials to monitor. "We use commercial systems and look for people experienced in System 38 RPG III."

There are about 50 people in the computer department at Roche Products, and Stewart Branch, the MIS manager, explained that there is a traditional commercial data processing group and a scientific and technical computer system where clinical research is done. Most work is done on IBM 370 or IBM 4381 and a DEC VAX for the scientific work.

The pharmaceutical research is divided into pre-clinical, where new compounds are developed, and clinical, which tests whether they are safe and effective.

"In the pre-clinical area you use sophisticated computing methods to support development of drugs. Chemists need sophisticated graphical images of molecules. In the clinical area there are large databases of data to analyse," Mr Branch said. In the commercial area there are the usual finance, marketing and personnel systems.

"It's very difficult to recruit



Dr Tim Higenbottam and staff with a patient in the Bronchoscopy Suite at Papworth Hospital using a fibre optic bronchoscope to perform a lung biopsy

## Early rejection detection

Brian Collett examines a new approach to the prevention of lung transplant rejection

A new technique aimed at saving and prolonging the lives of heart-lung transplant recipients is now being attempted at the pioneering Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire.

Researchers hope the examination of "washings" from the lungs of patients who have had the combined transplants will give more reliable indications of lung rejection than any other previously used methods.

The value of detecting rejection of a donated organ early is obvious — the information allows the transplant specialist immediately to give immunosuppressive therapy that could save the patient's life.

The new technique involves threading a bronchoscope down the windpipe into the lung and pumping out a minute amount of saline solution. The solution is then sucked back, along with a few lung cells.

Any signs of rejection, however, are looked for in the lymphocytes contained in the tissue sample, not in the cell tissue itself.

Lymphocytes, part of the natural immune system, recognize foreign bodies, such as bacteria and donated tissue, and produce the antibodies that help to destroy them. This is the actual process of rejection.

Dr Tim Higenbottam, a member of the Papworth transplant team, explains: "In rejection the lymphocytes proliferate

and attack the donated organ. We hope to learn a lot about rejection from the change in the pattern of the lymphocytes."

Other tests are less informative than lymphocyte examination is expected to prove.

X-rays, stethoscope soundings and measurements of breathing function cannot distinguish between infection and rejection. The biopsy method, in which a tiny forceps on the end of a bronchoscope nicks out a small amount of lung tissue, also has its limitations. In this exercise only the transplanted lung cells themselves can be depended on to give information as it is difficult to retrieve the lymphocytes from the sample undamaged. And the cells do not indicate whether rejection is developing or receding.

The washing method, known as broncho-alveolar lavage, brings out undamaged lymphocytes for examination. The researchers aim to show that the changes in the lymphocyte structure occur only in rejection, not in infection, and also hope to discover much more about the rejection process from these changes.

The patient's own observations after discharge from hospital are vital to the work. When the patient blows into an instrument called a spirometer he can tell from the reading whether there is any loss of elasticity in his new lungs, a common indication that rejection is starting. He can then raise the alarm.

The research is being done by Dr Higenbottam and John Wallwork, a heart and chest surgeon at Papworth, with a £60,000 British Lung Foundation grant given by the pharmaceutical company Duncan Flockhart.

The two researchers aim eventually to perfect their recognition of rejection by this method and establish a reliable clinical technique.

Heart-lung transplant recipients in whom rejection is detected early and remedied would benefit in one other important respect. Fibrosis, or thickening of the lungs, caused by repeated rejection and leading to breathlessness, could be minimized.

Parallel research is being conducted at St George's Hospital Medical School in south London with a British Lung Foundation grant of £22,700.

In this study John Pepper, a chest and heart surgeon, and Dr John Kirby, a research fellow at the medical school, have transplanted lungs into rats and found that the number of lymphocytes in peripheral blood samples taken from them mirror the rejection.

## PROFILE

### Hunting for an Inmos successor

By Simon Parry

Doug Stevenson, chief executive officer of Inmos, the silicon chip firm has "done his whack."

At 63 one of Mr Stevenson's final jobs will be to find a successor in his role as Inmos caretaker. "I'm looking forward to him coming in," he said. "I started in 1940 at the age of 14, I'd now like to spend time with my family."

Four years ago the genial Scotsman was consultant to the Thorn-EMI board. Together with Colin Southgate he fought hard to prevent the purchase of Inmos, the firm best known for its Transputer — a computer on a chip. They

understanding the charts is not enough. I think I have experienced in the last year a general manager is prone to, but at the moment I am starting to see blue skies."

There is good news on the horizon he said and if the Thorn-EMI board has sometimes viewed progress with dismay it continued to give its full support.

But while Inmos is now financially strong enough to stand on its feet, the firm and its operations are "peripheral" to Thorn-EMI's main strategy. Hence Mr Stevenson is masterminding efforts to find a partner for the company.



Doug Stevenson, Inmos chief executive, seeking new alliances

lost, and Mr Stevenson was then made chief executive with the unenviable task of cutting its huge costs.

Thorn-EMI bought Inmos for £95 million in 1984 but then, over the next three years had to invest close on £200 million to keep the company afloat during a time when the silicon chip industry was going through its deepest and most vicious recession.

It is a tribute to Mr Stevenson's professionalism that he carried out the restructuring with relatively little pain.

True, Inmos announced the closure of its US plant in Colorado Springs just before Christmas with the loss of 300 jobs but that is considered small beer against some of the wholesale redundancies some of the large companies had to make.

It was not a task Mr Stevenson relished. "Restructuring is not for fools or children," he said, "just

There is nothing unusual or shocking about that intention, said Mr Stevenson. Most silicon chip manufacturers form alliances with firms that build computer systems. That way they share costs and have a ready market for any new chip. "Even the great IBM is forming alliances," he said.

Mr Stevenson is convinced the silicon chip industry will continue to develop along those lines. The silicon chip market is a world market and Inmos, and any other UK chip firm, had better think along those lines. "We do that or die, that is the unpalatable option," he said.

"Semiconductor firms must also collaborate to remain competitive, there is no single area of invincibility where the Japanese cannot attack."

Mr Stevenson also believes government funding for this industry ought to be spent on applications of products not in developing the base technology to make those products.

He is not keen on the pre-

occupation of the rest of the UK chip industry on "asics" — bespoke chips tailored to a customer's requirements. "Plessey," he said, "would seem to have a more difficult job of becoming a moderately large and successful semiconductor company."

As for Inmos Mr Stevenson is convinced it will become a successful middle rank company with yearly revenues in the \$500 million range.

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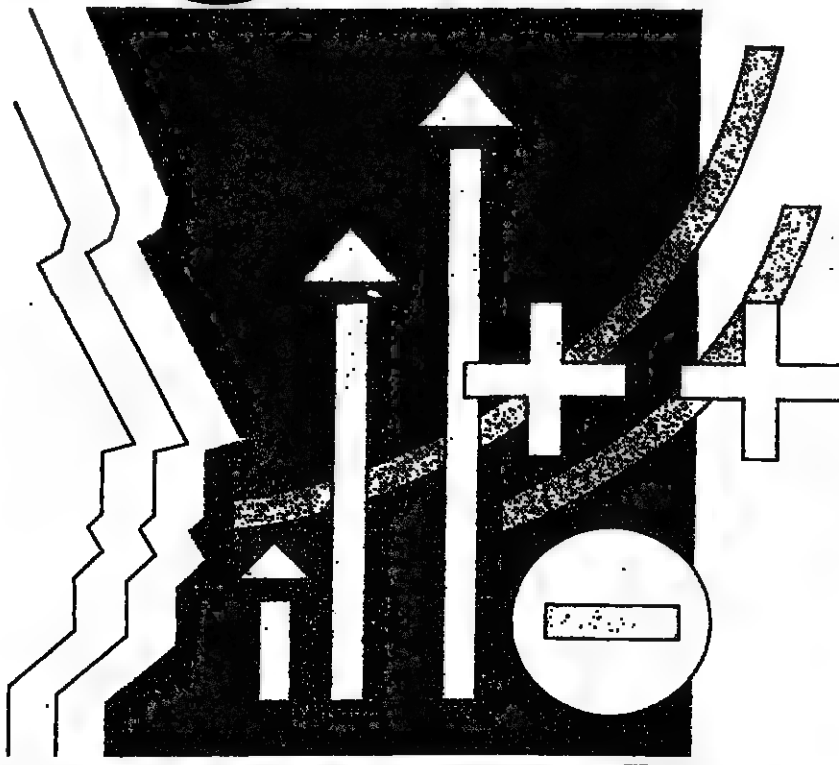
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## A super creation on a pin

A powerful electron microscope capable of writing the entire contents of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on a pinhead was formally switched on at the University of Liverpool last week. "Using this instrument we can write one million lines side by side in the width of a pencil line, or drill one million holes on the head of a pin," said Professor Colin Humphreys of the university's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. "To understand the precision required to do this you must imagine that you are sitting in a satellite trying to paint the window frame of a doll's house on the surface of the earth using a paint brush with a handle 100 miles long."



I suggest you also look at the computer picture. For a start, the colour graphics are nice.

### BRIEFING

lecturer in Office Technology at the polytechnic the findings are "particularly important for smaller businesses, who are often the first to use public mailbox systems rather than have their own boxes."

A Japanese court gave suspended prison terms to two former Toshiba executives last week and US military bases stopped selling the company's products because of its exports of strategic goods to the Soviet Union. The court fined the Toshiba subsidiary responsible for the exports, Toshiba Machine, yen 2 million (about £8,000) for violating Japan's Foreign Exchange Control Law. The defendants resigned after being accused of selling computer-controlled propeller milling machines and related software to the Soviets between 1982 and 1984 without obtaining government permission. Post exchanges at all US military bases were ordered last Tuesday to take Toshiba televisions, stereos and other products off their shelves as part of sanctions that prohibit the Department of Defence from purchasing Toshiba goods.

Shares of the Lotus Development dropped 15 per cent last Wednesday on the announcement that the company would delay shipment of 1-2-3 Release 3, the new version of its mainstay accounting spreadsheet program. Originally scheduled to be shipped by mid-year, Release 3 will now not appear until the winter to allow additional development time, Lotus said. Analysts said the delay would have a significant impact on Lotus' third-quarter and full-year earnings. The delay will also give an opportunity for 1-2-3 competitors, such as the Excel spreadsheet of the Microsoft and Quattro by Borland International. Arthur Andersen recently ordered 4,000 copies of Excel to replace 1-2-3. While the delay of Release 3 may not cause many customers to switch to competing products, it raises the larger question of whether Lotus will also be late on 1-2-3G, the graphic spreadsheet it is developing.

Logica is leading a consortium of companies in a contract awarded by the Department of Environment (DOE) to install the first phase of a national radiation monitoring network. A simulation exercise to test the effectiveness of the system will be conducted in the autumn. The new network forms part of the national response plan announced by the prime minister last year following the nuclear accident in Chernobyl in April 1986.

Imagine a lipstick that moisturized every time lips are puckered or kissed, or a foot powder that provided more antifungal relief with every step. These are two of many applications now possible with microsponges, microscopic synthetic spheres that can be "programmed" to release cosmetic or pharmaceutical agents in response to pressure, time or temperature. Patented last September by Advanced Polymer Systems, a start-up company based in California, microsponges are porous and contain huge networks of interconnected tunnels and surface areas that can be filled with fluids.

## Return of the prop-jet

Simon Parry looks at the latest gamble by a giant aircraft manufacturer

Last Tuesday McDonnell Douglas completed the last of its flight tests in California of a prototype of a new aeroplane family that uses a radically different engine.

The fate of the MD90 series, with a power plant that sees a return to propellers, hinges on the outcome of a marketing campaign that formed part of the tests. In the campaign, which began last May a total of 165 flying hours were clocked up demonstrating the plane to airline executives.

The plane is designed for the competitive short to medium-haul market, the sort of aircraft routinely used to fly passengers between European capitals.

This type of aircraft has special needs, principally quiet and fuel-efficient operation, which in turn has called for a departure from the commonplace jet engine.

As fuel costs rise, aircraft designers need to explore new ways of boosting an engine's performance while using considerably less fuel. They can



An early demonstration flight of an unducted-fan engine

do this by accelerating a larger volume of air past the engine, hence the return to propellers.

### The logical next step

But there isn't even a passing resemblance to the beloved Rolls-Royce Merlin engine of Spitfire fame. The

new engine, developed by General Electric of the US in association with the French company, Snecma, is a slightly ugly hybrid.

The rows of counter-rotating propellers—the engineers prefer to call them fan-blades—have been attached to the back of an ordinary small jet-engine core.

This type of engine is generally called an ultra-high bypass (UHB) engine because it derives most of its thrust from accelerating air by means of the fan rather than from exhaust gases.

GE chose this approach because it was the logical next step. But a rival consortium, International Aero Engines, in which Rolls-Royce holds a 30 per cent stake, tried to develop an even more radical engine in which the blades were ducted and at the front. This project, dubbed the Superfan, has since been shelved because IAE could not be confident of developing the engine ready for the new aircraft of the early 1990s.

### New core to be designed

Dwight Weber, a UDF project engineer at GE in Cincinnati, said the UDF engine was 20 to 25 per cent more fuel-efficient than comparable latest-generation jet engines and nearly 70 per cent more efficient than many of the engines used to power short-haul planes in service today.

When GE begins produc-

tion, and the company anxiously awaits the outcome of McDonnell Douglas's deliberations, a new core will be designed and the engine will develop 25 000 lb of thrust.

GE has tentative design studies on ducted fan (superfan type) engines but believes such engines will not appear until late next decade.

However, ducted-fan engines do have some advantages over GE's type of engine. They could be used on four-engine planes requiring wing mountings; the MD90 series places its engines high up on the tail.

Keith Sievers, an engineer at Nasa's Lewis Research Centre in Cleveland, has been involved in GE's UDF project. He said a ducted fan was more efficient but greater technical problems had to be overcome. "The superfan will have its day someday," he said, "but I was very surprised when IAE initially said it could have its engine ready at the same time as ours."

McDonnell Douglas is pleased with the GE engine finding that noise and vibration have not been problems. Vibration has been reduced to levels that are imperceptible in most parts of the aircraft.

Don Hanson, a senior engineer on the MD90 project at McDonnell Douglas said that noise levels were a "pleasant surprise".

Mr Hanson's team is obliged by the McDonnell Douglas board to have launch orders before it can proceed into full-scale production delivering aircraft for service in late-1992.

## The battle to beat Babel is underway



By David Guest

Machine intelligence met Gallic wit and came off second-best in Paris earlier this month as Texas Instruments (TI) tried to push back the frontiers of technology.

Predictably, language was the stumbling block. TI was unveiling the latest fruit of its massive investment in artificial intelligence to a European press corps.

The product in question was an Apple Macintosh microcomputer adapted by TI to explore new areas of computing potential and hence called a Micro Explorer.

With two US-based companies involved, simultaneous translations were laid on for French, German and Italian speakers. But ordinary intelligence failed when the presentations gave way to a question and answer session.

The declaration that verbal questions would be taken only in English while others would have to be written down provoked some Gallic rumbles of discontent.

It also, inevitably, led to the absurdity—in the capital of France—of a French question being translated into poor English, to be answered in poor English by a Frenchman.

The French contingent began to assume "Allo, Allo" accents in deliberate mockery. One restless native asked a simple question in clear English, but unfortunately it wasn't understood.

"Would you like me to write the question down?" he asked. "Yes, yes" came the reply. The Frenchman, enjoying himself hugely by this time, asked "In capitals".

All this cast the Micro Explorer in a new light. If human intelligence is imperfectly understood and de-

If artificial intelligence is a developing science, it may be expected to develop more quickly the more people that are involved.

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# HORIZONS

A guide to career opportunities

Amid all the criticism of farming methods which threatens wildlife, enthusiasts are making a real contribution to conservation and earning a living at the same time says Sally Watts

## The birds and bees down on the farm

As a farming conservation adviser (FCA), Joy Greenall encourages farmers to use their land — grasslands, woodlands, wet areas — and their ponds, trees, and hedges in such a way that natural life can flourish again and the inhibiting results of agricultural changes can start to be reversed.

This career attracts many people, up to the late forties, who have an interest in conservation and countryside management; men and women with a farming background (often with a degree in agriculture), and, equally important, a knowledge of ecology and wildlife.

The work started less than 10 years ago, since when well over 7,650 farms have been visited. FCAs operate in 41 counties and not only advising farmers.

On one recent windy day Joy Greenall, who is based in Oxfordshire, visited a publican with a four-acre paddock that he wanted to convert into a small woodland for the enjoyment of his customers, and a parish council seeking advice on how to use a piece of land, complete with pond, for the interest of villagers.

A third visit was to a farmer who was keen to improve old brick pits that had become flooded and choked.

Joy, who has also been coping with Berkshire for two of her three years as an adviser, came to work in her thirties, with a first degree in zoology and an MSc in conservation management. Her previous jobs include adult education, summer warden employment at a nature reserve and working for Cambridgeshire Naturalists' Trust. As with other FCAs, her work is helping us to regain our lost flowers and birds.

Advisers only call when farmers ask them to do so. "Generally they are keen on conservation, specially if I can point out an interesting bird or flower on their land," she says. "We are also able to bring in specialists, such as archaeologists, and advise on grants."

One suggestion offered by FCAs is, instead of ploughing right up to the hedge, leave as wide a space as possible as this enhances the prospect of flowers, butterflies, and partridges, too. Again, if there is a footpath, try to keep it as a grass border.

In the adjoining county, Buckinghamshire's FCA is Dr Chris Smith, who took up the work in his mid-forties after a varied career that included lecturing in agricultural botany to students at Reading University and doing contract work for the Nature Conser-

vancy Council on sites of special scientific interest. He has also headed an agricultural college's countryside department and been regional chairman of a naturalists' trust.

"But I've never been happier than in the work I'm doing now," says Chris Smith. "You need humility and tact, but it's a way of helping to conserve our countryside by encouraging farmers to do very positive things."

Two-thirds of FCAs are women. One originally trained and worked as a farm secretary, then put herself through an appropriate college course. You could have a few degrees or a higher national diploma, but knowledge and experience matter more than formal qualifications.

"This isn't a career people decide on when leaving school, and the lower age limit is 25," says Mr Eric Carter, national adviser of the Farming and Wildlife Trust. "People gravitate towards the work as their knowledge and experience grow. A number are coming forward who applied earlier but lacked wide enough experience."

Two years ago Andrew Webb was serving as an Army officer, today he is finding his feet in his new job as head warden of National Trust property in the Lake District's western area, extending across the beautiful valleys of Duddon, Eskdale, and Wasdale.

During his nine Army years a countryside career was always at the back of his mind, and the idea grew as he saw training and employment opportunities vastly increased compared with what was available when he left school.

After taking stock, Andrew left the Army at 27 with the rank of captain, and joined Merrist Wood Agricultural College's diploma course in countryside recreation. He did voluntary projects to meet the stipulation of a year's pre-college experience in relevant work and for part of the time had no income at all.

Mature students can sometimes afford to be more flexible in using opportunities than 18 year olds. After Andrew's first industrial placement at the NT's Wicken Fen, near Ely, he applied for his present job in the Lake District, even though he had spent only about a year on courses.

His reasons were sound: although countryside recreation is a growth industry, the many courses — including those for volunteers and the unemployed — make job finding increasingly competitive. And he can acquire or improve on specific skills through in-service training, such as the wide range of short courses

sponsored by the Countryside Commission.

As he says: "Each area requires different skills. In uplands, where I'm working, you need a quite different range of skills from, say, a coastal region."

Yuppies apart, there is much to be said for the older entrant and Dick Bathurst, the NCC's chief warden in north-east Scotland, believes people of 30 and even 40 may well have the experience and self-reliance to stand them in good stead, in comparison with the younger entrant.

Merrist Wood has no upper age limit; so far the oldest entrant has been 38. Mature students have included a nurse, postman, occasional graduates and farmers disenchanted with food production and more interested in the leisure use of land.

"Some people are so keen they chuck up their job and do their pre-college year voluntarily," says Tony Rist, head of Merrist Wood's countryside department.

One training method that Andrew Webb may pursue is the correspondence module in countryside recreation management which Capel Manor's open learning unit has spent three years developing for people on the job — wardens, rangers, farm managers, estate staff and those in urban and city parks.

"They can sit in a hut and work through the course when it's raining," suggests Dr Steven Dowbiggin, the principal, who is pleased with the success of the package — 7,000 have been sent out to date.

In addition, Capel Manor, a college of further education, runs City and Guilds day courses in care, conservation and management for people already working, or hoping to work, in greenspace. There is also a year's full-time introduction to horticulture and conservation which attracts men and women embarking on a new career — returning mothers, a nurse, an ex-serviceman, a policeman taking early retirement. One has successfully launched his own landscaping business, with fellow students on the payroll.

Others, who have taken a City and Guilds course while employed in London parks and recreation grounds, sometimes set up as gardeners or tree specialists.

Planning is another entrepreneurial area. According to the Royal Town Planning Institute, local authority staff reorganization is leading many with appropriate qualifications to take early retirement and start their own planning consultancy — there is a demand for their expertise in relation to country areas as well as towns. And today older people are entering the profession.

A degree course in countryside management — believed to be the first — starts in October at Newcastle University's faculty of agriculture, and will include scientific, economic and planning aspects. The first course is booked. Details from Martin Whitty, Farming and Wildlife Trust, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, Merrist Wood Agricultural College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE, Capel Manor, Bullsmore Lane, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire EN7 5HR.

# PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

## ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The County of Avon is a busy authority which offers across the board experience of law and administration in the attractive and growing South West.

### SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER Ref No: ADL/00012/72

(Litigation/Contracts)

Salary: PO (1-4) £12,804 - £13,812

Applications are invited for this senior post within the Department's Litigation Law Section which is responsible for most of the Litigation undertaken by the County Council and a substantial volume of Police Litigation undertaken on behalf of the Avon and Somerset Police Authority.

The post is open to Solicitors, Barristers and FLEX or those with equivalent qualifications or experience. You should have sound experience in both Contractual and Litigation matters gained preferably (but not necessarily) with a local or public authority. The wide variety and heavy volume of work provides a challenging opportunity. Experience of computerised systems would be an advantage.

For an informal discussion, please contact either Mr P J Jennings, telephone Bristol 290777 extension 588, or Mr A Ritchie on extension 6422.

### LEGAL OFFICER (COMPULSORY PURCHASE)

Ref No: ADL/00130/72

(Conveyancing and Property Services Section)

Salary: Career Grade Scale 2 - SO2

Appointment at Scale 4/5 £7,833 - £9,873

This is a new post and the responsibilities will relate primarily to the processing of Compulsory Purchase Orders. The work will involve receiving instructions from the Departments promoting the order, drafting orders and preparing all the necessary documentation. It is hoped to introduce a computerised system for processing orders and one of your first duties will be to assist in setting up such a system.

In addition to these duties you will be expected to undertake such other legal work as may be allocated from time to time. All legal other posts in Avon are on a career grade.

Applications for this post are invited from those who have passed Part 1 of the Institute of Legal Executives examinations or hold similar qualifications and have two years experience in legal work. Applications from others may be considered depending on experience and aptitude.

### SOLICITOR (2 POSTS)

(Social Services Court Team)

The Social Services Court Team comprises four solicitors and two legal officers. The Team deals with all cases including children. There are two current vacancies.

### 1) PO1 (5-9) Ref No: ADL/00134/72

Salary: £14,625 - £15,921

Applications are invited from those with at least 12 months experience in child-care law and practice. You will be expected to support the Section Head and give general supervision and assistance to two assistant solicitors and two legal officers within the Social Services Court Team. This post provides an excellent opportunity for a person interested in child-care law to gain management experience in a busy office.

### 2) PO1 (1-4) Ref No: ADL/00135/72

Salary: £12,804 - £13,812

This post would suit a recently qualified solicitor seeking to gain experience in the challenging field of child-care law. Applications are invited from those with local authority or private practice backgrounds and training will be given to those who lack experience but can demonstrate potential.

Closing date for the above 4 posts - 11th April

### PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR - Ref: ADL/00021/72

(Re-advertisement)

Salary Grade PO (SH) £19,194 - £20,463

Applications are invited for this challenging third tier post from suitably qualified local government solicitors or barristers. The post holder heads the Personal Services Section of the Legal Division and is responsible for managing a team of Solicitors/Legal Executives dealing with all legal work arising from the Education, Social Services, Public Protection and Community Leisure group of Committees. A legal support service is also given to the Avon Probation Committee and the Avon and Somerset Police Authority. In addition the successful applicant will have general management responsibility for the Social Services Court Team and the Common Law Section.

Candidates should therefore be able to demonstrate a breadth of local government experience covering Committee attendance and good management skills including an aptitude towards use and development of new technology. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

### SENIOR SOLICITOR Ref: ADL/110/72

(Social Services/Section Head)

Salary Grade: PO (9-12) £15,921 - £17,151

The Social Services Court Team handles all court proceedings involving children. The responsibilities of the Section Head are challenging and demanding. The successful applicant will need to lead a team of four solicitors and two legal officers. Applications are invited from experienced advocates with current knowledge of child care law and practice. Applicants should also demonstrate an aptitude for management of staff and for sustaining good working relationships with colleagues in the Social Services Department.

### SOLICITOR Ref: ADL/117/72

Salary Grade: PO (1-4) £12,804 - £13,812

Solicitors recently admitted will be considered

Applications are invited from solicitors or barristers. The duties of the post involve advising on a variety of highways and planning matters in this busy legal office. Initially this will cover Economic Development, Public Transport and general highways. Avon is a rapidly developing area and the work is both varied and demanding. In addition the applicant will be expected to advise on the implications for the County Council of all new legislation. Experience with another local authority would be an advantage although this is not essential. Some committee experience may be available and court work will be required although this does not form a large proportion of the duties. This particular post provides an excellent opportunity for those seeking to make a career in local authority law and administration.

Closing Date for the above 3 posts - 18th April

### FOR ALL POSTS

Applications are particularly welcome from black people who are under-represented in this Section of the Department (Race Relations Act 1976, Section 38 (1) (b) applies). Application by form only, available with further details from the Director of Personnel Services, PO Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS1 9TH, or telephone Bristol 296555 (Answer on this number after office hours). Please quote appropriate reference number when asking for forms which must be returned by the specified closing date.

Avon as an Equal Opportunities Employer considers applicants on their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.

**Avon**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## SEVERN-TRENT WATER MAINTENANCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Salary indicator - £20,000 p.a.

Severn-Trent Water provides water services to 8 million people over an area of 8,000 square miles between the Humber Estuary and the Bristol Channel and our operational organisation reflects the geographical deployment of the assets we employ to meet customer needs.

We are looking for a chartered mechanical or electrical engineer with wide experience in the maintenance of treatment and distribution, sewage and sewage treatment plant and associated structures to join our Operational Support team at regional headquarters in Birmingham.

The emphasis in the job is towards the formulation and implementation of such plant which calls for a high level of planning ability. Sound interpersonal skills are therefore essential as is the ability to communicate clearly at all levels in the organisations.

If you feel that your qualifications and experience match these requirements will you please apply to:

The Head of Manpower Services, Severn-Trent Water, Abelson House, 2297 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3PU.

Telephone 021 722 4000 ext. 2151/2254 for an application form and further details.

Severn-Trent is an equal opportunity employer.

## Lancashire Constabulary

### ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE

Applications for this post, which will become vacant on the 1st September, 1988, are invited from persons with wide police experience in the United Kingdom. The salary payable is £30,960.

The appointment will be subject to the Police Acts and Regulations for the time being in force and to a satisfactory medical examination. Housing accommodation will be provided or an allowance paid in lieu. Flat rate car allowance and uniform allowances will be paid.

Application forms are obtainable from the Chief Executive/Clerk (Ref 60/BWR), Lancashire County Council, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. (Tel: Preston (0772) 263466) and should be returned by 22nd April, 1988.

BRIAN HILL  
Clerk to the Police Committee  
County Hall  
PRESTON

Lancashire County Council is an equal opportunities employer welcoming applications from all sections of the community.

### Deputy Secretary

Territorial, Auxiliary & Volunteer Reserve Association Yorkshire & Humber

VACANCY for DEPUTY SECRETARY to the TERRITORIAL, AUXILIARY AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION for YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE.

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy to the Secretary of the above Association. The successful applicant will be required to report for duty as soon as possible as the post is now vacant.

Applicants should preferably have Service and Staff experience at Grade 1 level and be under 50 years of age unless now employed by a TAVR Association. A good knowledge of works matters would be an advantage. Present salary, which is reviewed periodically, is £9,985 increasing by five annual increments to £12,878. There is a good pension scheme. The normal retiring age is 65.

The successful applicant will be required to pass a medical examination. He will be expected to live within a reasonable distance of York. A car is provided.

Applications in writing, enclosing CV, should be forwarded to the Secretary, (DVS), Yorkshire & Humber TAVR Association, 20 St. George's Place, York YO2 2DS. Applications must reach the above address by 9 May 1988.

## BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HEAD OF LEGAL SALES UP TO £22,000

THE JOB: arises from a restructuring of the Council's management and the creation of an Administration Department with four divisions. We are now looking for someone to head up the Legal Division and act as the Council's solicitor.

THE PERSON should be a solicitor of at least eight years' admission with a sound local government background and the ability to manage a busy legal office.

BENEFITS: - a contract hire car or interest free car loan  
- lump sum relocation allowance of £4000  
- mortgage assistance scheme  
- free private health insurance  
- paid overtime in approved cases  
- flexible working hours

Further details can be obtained by telephoning our 24 hour answering service on Basingstoke (0256) 479443, quoting reference T/LOOT at the start of your call. Applications in your own style should be submitted to the Personnel Manager, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 2AJ by Monday 18 April.

BASINGSTOKE & DEANE borough council

## BPMF

University of London  
BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION

### CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited from qualified Accountants for the post of Chief Accountant to the British Postgraduate Medical Federation.

The Federation has a major function in training the consultants of the future and in keeping doctors in hospitals and general practice up to date with the latest developments in medicine.

The BPMF comprises 8 Institutes engaged in medical research, education and the specialised treatment of patients.

University experience would be advantageous and applicants should be in the age range 30-45.

Salary by negotiation but not less than £20,000 per annum.

Please send full details to Miss Jane M Jones, Federation Secretary, BPMF, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 1EL.

### PHONE NICKY NOW

ON (0905) 723747 for challenging post now available as Court Clerk to advise Worcestershire Justices in the administration of Justice. Salary within range approx £10 - 13k.

ALL BOX NO. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

BOX NO. DEPT. P.O. BOX 484, VIRGINIA STREET, WAPPING, LONDON, E1 9DD.



## COURT CLERKS

Peripatetic Court Clerk (up to £13,998 pa) and Court Clerk (up to £11,898 pa)

Applications are invited from Barristers, Solicitors, and other persons suitably qualified for the above posts. The successful applicants should possess a car and a valid driving licence. They will be expected to take Magistrates' Courts of all types as well as undertake some administrative duties. There are purpose-built court houses at Chichester, Medhurst and Petworth. The peripatetic Court Clerk will also be expected to take courts elsewhere, namely, at Arundel, Steyning, or Worthing. Essential car user allowance will be payable.

The administration (fully computerised) is from a modern court complex (opened in 1977) in Chichester, a cathedral city of great charm set amid one of the finest coastal and downland recreational areas in the South. The court's area has a population of about 207,000. JMC conditions of service will apply. Consideration will be given to meeting removal expenses in appropriate cases. Applications in writing (manuscript please) should be sent to me together with a full Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of two referees before Friday 04 April, 1988.

JOHN HERNIMAN, Clerk to the Justices, 6 Market Avenue, CHICHESTER, West Sussex, PO19 1YE Tel: (0243) 764721

## Ogwr Borough Council

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT SENIOR PLANNING ASSISTANT

(Forward Planning) (POST NO. P.46) Salary Grade: SO1 - £11,322 to £12,076 per annum

The successful candidate for the above post will be a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute with experience in economic development activities. Enthusiasm and a positive attitude are essential.

This post offers an opportunity for someone who is interested in working in a busy Planning Department in an area of South Wales containing a wide variety of planning problems and opportunities. The Borough has a population of 134,000 and covers an area of 160 square miles including an attractive coastline and is centred on the expanding town of Bridgend.

The Borough Planning Department initiates and co-ordinates the Council's economic development activities. It maintains the Authority's economic data base, deals with enquiries about industrial and commercial development, provides details of industrial land and property and financial incentives, and runs the industrial promotion strategy.

The postholder, who will work in the Department's Forward Planning Section, will be involved in all these areas, particularly as a first contact point. On occasions, duties may include work on Local Plans.

An Essential User Car Allowance is payable, and assisted car purchase or Leasing Schemes are available. A generous relocation package together with temporary housing is also available.

Application forms, which must be returned to Mrs D. Byrne, Borough Personnel Officer, by Friday 8th April 1988 are obtainable from her at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF33 1LX. Telephone (0656) 82141 ext. 6265. CANDIDATES WHO ARE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WILL DISQUALIFY. "OGWR BOROUGH COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER"

## RCM The Royal College of Midwives

15 Mansfield Street, London W1M 0BE Tel. 01-580 6523/4/5 & 01-637 8823

### SENIOR FULL-TIME OFFICIAL

The successful candidate will be the senior of two officers responsible for representing practising midwives in three English health authorities and, following a recent increase in staffing, will be a member of a team of ten officers negotiating at both local and national level. The position is based at the RCM's headquarters in London. She/he will have the necessary industrial relations skills and experience to represent midwives, both as individuals and collectively, at health authority and industrial tribunal levels. An NHS background would be an advantage.

The salary scale, currently £16,421 to £19,691 pa, is due to be revised from 1 April 1988.

The RCM represents more than 80 per cent of practising midwives in the NHS, with membership standing at its highest ever level: more than 30,000.

For informal visits/enquiries, contact Miss Sheila McIlroy, Director of Industrial Relations, on 01-580 6523 ext. 220. Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Administrative Officer at the above address or on 01-580 6523 ext. 215.

Closing date: 18 April 1988



## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

## MANAGER

## Community Charge Registration

Up to £18,000 plus Car Allowance

Croydon is an attractive area to live and work and has fast road and rail links with central London (13 minutes) and the south coast (45 minutes).

An exciting new post has been created to spearhead preparations for setting up and maintaining a Register of Community Charge payers. Croydon has 240,000 potential charge payers and we are looking for somebody who can harness flair and imagination to sophisticated business techniques.

We particularly wish to talk to managers, possibly in the public sector, who already have significant responsibilities for at least 20 staff who deal directly with the public.

The task is to establish and maintain a register of the adult population of Croydon who will be liable to pay the new Community Charge when domestic rates cease in 1990. The preparatory work of recruiting and training canvassing staff and setting up systems etc. has to commence now. You will join a young and enthusiastic professional team who are already preparing for the changes.

Our generous relocation package covers all costs for moving to within commuting distance of Croydon.

For an informal discussion telephone Alan Titheridge, Assistant Director of Finance (01-686 4433, extension 2074).

Application forms and information pack from Jean Scott on 01-760 5560 (direct line). Forms should be returned to the Director of Finance, London Borough of Croydon, Municipal Offices, Fell Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 1BQ, by April 15, 1988.

CROYDON

An equal opportunity employer

Oxfordshire  
County CouncilDIRECTOR OF SOCIAL  
SERVICES

£34,263 - £37,692

The County Council is seeking a successor to Harry Turner who will retire shortly.

There has been a recent reorganisation of the Department into five all-purpose divisions, with professional and administrative support centred in Oxford.

This restructuring will provide the means of ensuring that a responsive and accessible service is available to the public, and that resources are deployed effectively. The new Director will come to the Department at a crucial point in its development and will have ample opportunity to exercise positive management and leadership.

You will need to be suitably qualified and to have a good understanding and experience of the management of a large organisation, with a social work background being desirable but not essential.

Application forms and job details from the County Personnel Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND telephone (0865) 815465. Closing date: 25th April 1988.

WORKPLACE NURSERY AVAILABLE IN OXFORD

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Animal Charity seeks  
Fund-raising  
Officer

Based at their headquarters near Watford. Responsibilities will include running local fund-raising events, talks, jumble collection and sales, administering stock and mail order. Salary £8,500 with use of van.

Write to the General Secretary, Animal Welfare Trust, Tyler's Way, Watford by Post, Watford, Herts WD2 8HQ.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
FOR SOMERSET  
ASSISTANT TO  
THE DIRECTOR

Applications are invited. The postholder will have particular responsibility for the Village Halls Advisory Service, the Arts and Leisure Service for parish councils. Experience and understanding of rural social problems is essential. We offer a clear career path and an advantage. Salary scale £10,123 to £10,687.

Details and application form from Somerset County Council, Somerset, St. Margaret's, Hamerton Rd., Taunton, TA1 1SS. Telephone 0823 321222.

Closing Date 18th April.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## Shipping

## A Unique Opportunity

We are currently seeking a key individual to join this major central London firm with extensive overseas offices, to head up and develop their international shipping litigation operations.

An active commercial shipping practice already exists, with an emphasis on charterparty and cargo disputes. The ability to channel the firm's activities in this area and to create a successful department are vital aspects of this role.

Applicants should have 2-5 years' high calibre shipping litigation experience ideally within an established City shipping practice.

The salary package will reflect the ambition, personality and technical excellence required of the successful candidate. There are good opportunities to travel.

If you would like further information, please call Venetia Crow on 01-831 2000 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham

Manchester Leeds Glasgow &amp; Worldwide

## Commercial Property

## New Appointment - £ Highly Attractive

Ideally 2 years P.Q.E.

Due to continuing growth through new business, our Client, a prestigious City of London firm with a broadly based Commercial practice, offers an excellent opportunity for a Solicitor with energy, initiative and enthusiasm to work within a stimulating environment. The partners recognise that the continued success of the practice depends upon the ability to provide both a commercial approach and a first class service.

If you have the relevant experience since qualifying, then please telephone James Davis in the strictest confidence or write to him at the address set out below.

## LEGAL SELECTION

160 New Bond Street,  
London W1V 0HR England  
Telephone 01-493 8515  
(24 hour answerphone)  
Fax 01-491 7439

JAMES  
DAVIS  
&  
PARTNERS

## WINCKWORTH

&amp;

## PEMBERTON

Incorporating Knapp-Fishers

## SENIOR LITIGATION SOLICITOR

We are a Westminster practice with a prestigious client base and require an ambitious senior litigation solicitor, to play a leading role in the department and in its future development.

The department deals with a wide range of civil matters referred mainly by institutional and commercial clients. This includes commercial disputes, building contracts, landlord and tenant and employment law. Both liquor licensing, for which the firm is well known, and town and country planning are dealt with elsewhere in the department.

An attractive remuneration package and partnership prospects are offered to the successful candidate who has the ability and personal qualities to:

- Provide an effective service to clients
- Communicate well at all levels
- Supervise and control work delegated
- Make a full contribution to the needs of the department

Apply in writing to Christopher Tipping (Litigation Partner)

Winckworth & Pemberton

Incorporating Knapp-Fishers

35 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LR

## JOHNSON, STOKES &amp; MASTER

HONG KONG

(In association with Norton, Rose, Botherell &amp; Roche)

We are a firm of Solicitors in Hong Kong and require

## TRADE MARK SPECIALIST

to assist in the running of our large and expanding Trade Marks Department. We are looking preferably for someone with relevant professional qualifications (M.I.T.M.A., C.P.A., etc.) and experience, but any applicant with practical knowledge of trade mark law (including oppositions, etc.) and an ability to work without supervision will be considered. Hong Kong's trade mark system is similar to that of the United Kingdom, so that an applicant with relevant experience in a Commonwealth practice may be suitable.

A friendly and exciting working atmosphere, an attractive remuneration package (including medical and travel benefits) and Hong Kong's low salaries tax rates (maximum 15% on total emoluments) make this a rewarding and challenging opportunity.

Please send your C.V. with full details of your education and the nature and extent of your experience to:-

RICHARD R. HALSTEAD, B.Sc., M.I.T.M.A., C.P.A.,  
TRADE MARKS DEPARTMENT,  
JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,  
19TH FLOOR, PRINCE'S BUILDING,  
10 CHATER ROAD, CENTRAL,  
HONG KONG  
OR TELEPHONE HONG KONG (5)-8434509.

Replies will be treated in strictest confidence.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES  
PRIFYSGOL CYMRU

## FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from qualified accountants with appropriate experience, for the post of Finance Officer of the University of Wales, tenable from 1st August, 1988, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Finance Officer will be a member of the University Registrar's senior management team, located at the University Registry, Cardiff.

The salary for the post will be within the range for Admin. Staff Grade 6, the minimum of which is £23,380 per annum.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the University Registrar, University of Wales, University Registry, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NS. (Closing date 30 April 1988).

NORTH BIRMINGHAM  
HEALTH AUTHORITY  
Mental Health Services  
SERVICE MANAGERGrade Senior Nurse 6  
(or equivalent)  
Community

Community Psychiatric Services within North Birmingham Health Authority offers, for the right person, an excellent opportunity to develop their expertise in planning and implementing community-based services, to achieve the proposed reduction in hospital facilities, and to have the responsibility for Resource and Day Centres, Generic CPNs and other community-based services.

We need an innovative and imaginative person who possesses good management experience to meet the needs and demands of this exciting and challenging post. Applicants for this post must be committed to the concept of community-based care. Candidates from any discipline who possess the relevant skills and knowledge for this creative post may apply.

Interested? Informal enquiries welcomed, contact: Mr Ian McCormick, Patient Services Manager, Highcroft Hospital, Highcroft Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B23 6AX. Tel: 021-578 2211 ext 4206.

Application form and job description from: Miss Jenny Kedge, District Personnel Department, 15 Bedford Road, Sutton Coldfield B75 6BE. Tel: 021-578 2211 ext 3229 or 3443. Closing date: April 14, 1988.

Tayside  
Regional CouncilAPPOINTMENT OF  
DEPUTY FIREMASTER  
(ASSISTANT FIREMASTER)£24,396 x £588 (4) to £26,748  
(inclusive) (under review)  
(Minimum salary for post: £27,261)

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced senior officers for appointment to the post of Deputy Firemaster, which becomes vacant on 10th June 1988. Membership of the Institution of Fire Engineers and attendance at an appropriate Command Course will be considered an additional advantage.

National conditions of service will apply and the successful candidate will be required to undergo a medical examination.

The successful applicant will be required to provide his own car for use in connection with official duties.

The officer appointed will be required to devote his whole time to the post and no secondary employment may be undertaken without approval of the Regional Council. Retirement, legal and associated expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with National Conditions of Service.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Chief Executive, Tayside Regional Council, Tayside House, Crichton Street, Dundee DD1 3RA, telephone Dundee (0382) 22281, extension 3819, and must be returned in envelopes marked "Confidential - Appointment of Deputy Firemaster" to arrive not later than 8th April 1988.

Any relationship to any member or senior officer of the Tayside Regional Council must be disclosed.

## DUMFRIES and GALLOWAY HEALTH BOARD

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Informal enquiries will be welcomed by: Mr M.D. Cook, Board General Manager on ext. 243.

CLOSING DATE FOR  
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21ST APRIL, 1988.

## EASTER DEADLINES

## THE TIMES

Friday 1st April  
Saturday 2nd April  
Monday 4th April  
Tuesday 5th April

Copy must be  
received by  
Thursday 31st  
March Midday.

We would like to wish all our advertisers and readers a very Happy Easter.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

(Publication date 3rd April)  
Travel & Books sections - Copy Deadline  
Tuesday 29th March 5.00pm.  
Appointments, Property & Motors - Copy Deadline  
Thursday 31st March 12 midday.  
All other classifications - Copy Deadline  
Wednesday 30th March 5.00pm.



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## Revised rates are payable before list is altered

**Regina v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte S. G. Warburg Group Management Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Hutchison (Judgment March 25)

On the true construction of the General Rating Act 1967 allowed rating authorities to levy rates on the basis of new or revised rates payable before the valuation list was altered. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in favour of the rating authority, allowing the council to recover from S. G. Warburg Group Management Ltd, the applicant, the rates payable on the basis of the new or revised rates payable before the valuation list was altered.

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Section 6 of the 1967 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the rating authority may at any time make such amendments in the rate (being either the current or the last preceding rate) as appear to them necessary in order to make the rate conform with the enactments relating thereto..."

"(2) Where the effect of the amendment would be to alter, otherwise than by way of correction of a clerical or arithmetical error, the value on which a hereditament is rated, the rating authority shall not make any amendment of the rate unless... a proposal for a corresponding alteration to the valuation list has been made by the valuation officer; and if effect, or full effect, is ultimately

not given to such a proposal, (i) if too much has been paid, the rate shall be repaid or allowed; or (ii) if too little has been paid, it shall be paid and may be recovered as if it were arrears of the rate."

Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Christopher Lewsey for the applicant; Mr Nigel Macleod, QC and Mr John Male for the respondents.

**LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM** said that the question was where a rateable value for a given hereditament appeared in the valuation list and during the rating year the valuation officer proposed to increase the rateable value, such proposal being accepted by the rating authority but challenged by the ratepayer, was the sum of rates recoverable by the rating authority for that year to be assessed on the rateable value appearing in the valuation list or the proposed new rateable value?

It was common ground that the answer to the question was to be found in a correct interpretation and application of the General Rating Act 1967.

The facts were that in October 1986 the valuation officer reached an agreement with the applicant that the property should have attributed to it a gross value of £833,759 and a rateable value of £694,763. Those figures were subsequently entered in the valuation list with a note that the premises were "Affected by adjoining building works".

On April 30, 1987 the valuation officer proposed to delete the words "Affected by adjoining building works" and to increase the gross value to £1,419,000 and the rateable value to £1,182,472 on the ground that "the present assessment is incorrect and in-

sufficient". There had been no material alteration to the property itself.

The respondents had demanded the rate payable on the new proposed rateable value; the applicants had paid the amount due on the rateable value which appeared in the valuation list. Magistrates' court proceedings had been adjourned pending the decision on the application.

His Lordship said that he had not found the question easy to resolve. He saw force in the argument that if section 6 of the Act had been intended to enable rating authorities to levy rates on the basis of proposed valuations it could very simply have said so.

It was, however, plain from section 6(2) that the Act intended ratepayers to pay first and argue later. The section also made it plain that rating authorities might amend the rate where a proposal for a corresponding alteration to the valuation list had been made by the valuation officer.

His Lordship concluded that the case fell within the general words of section 6(1) which enabled a rating authority to amend the rate if (as here) it appeared to it to be necessary in order to make the rate conform with (in particular) section 19(3) and the authority's power or duty to make a rate.

Section 6(7)(b), his Lordship said, was not a condition of enforcement of section 24(b), but that sub-section was, in his view, subject to the authority's general powers under section 6 to amend the rate in appropriate circumstances. For those reasons he refused the application.

Mr Justice Hutchison agreed. Solicitors: Macfarlane; Mr Siddiek Meer, Hackney.

**Leventon v Chryl County Council**

Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stoddart (Judgment March 17)

A woman could not succeed on a claim that her work was of equal value to that of men employed by the same employer at a different establishment unless the terms and conditions of the men's employment were broadly similar to those of her employment.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice May dissenting) in a reserved judgment, dismissing unanimously an appeal by the applicant, Mrs Marion Leventon, from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice French, Mr J. A. Powell and Mr C. H. Wright) (The Times June 16, 1986; [1987] 1 WLR 65) which had dismissed her appeal from an industrial tribunal's decision to dismiss her application under section 12(2)(c) of the Equal Pay Act 1970 (as amended) for the inclusion of an equality clause in her contract of employment with Chryl County Council.

Section 1 of the Equal Pay Act 1970 (as amended) provides: "(2) An equality clause is a provision which relates to terms (whether concerned with pay or not) of a contract under which a woman is employed..."

Section 6(7)(b), his Lordship said, was not a condition of enforcement of section 24(b), but that sub-section was, in his view, subject to the authority's general powers under section 6 to amend the rate in appropriate circumstances. For those reasons he refused the application.

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that the applicant and the comparators worked at different establishments. In considering whether the comparators were "in the same employment" as the applicant for the purposes of section 1, the first difficulty which arose was caused by the inclusion of the phrase "which include that one".

It could be argued that that phrase meant that before an applicant could succeed on a claim under section 1(2)(c) one of the male comparators had to be employed at the same establishment as the applicant. If that argument were good the applicant's claim in the instant case would fail *in limine*.

The majority of the appeal tribunal had rejected that argument on the basis that "which include that one" could be read as meaning "not excluding that one", so that comparators could be drawn both from the applicant's establishment and from establishments other than that of the applicant.

His Lordship could see no good reason why the simple words "which include that one" should be turned round and so construed, the meaning of the two phrases was different, and the majority conclusion of the appeal tribunal was a valiant attempt to give some meaning to those very difficult words. The meaning of those words became apparent once one had correctly construed the words "common terms and conditions".

There was no warrant for construing "common" as "identical". The only legitimate construction of "common" was either "the same" or "belonging equally to more than one, generally known, or in general use".

It could not mean "the same" since by dicta the reason for the inclusion of the words "common terms and conditions" of the applicant and those of the comparators would defeat the whole purpose of the legislation.

Thus his Lordship was driven to adopt the alternative construction, which enabled one to arrive at the purposive destination to which the draftsman was directing one: one was led to a concept of terms and conditions in a general sense, applicable across the board, or across the particular boards of the relevant classes of employee.

In other words the object of section 1(2)(c) and (6) was to ensure that a woman doing work of the same value in the same establishment as men employed on equal terms and conditions, if the woman and the man were employed by the same or an associated employer at the same establishment they were, well understandably, to be treated as in the same employment, and so question of common terms and conditions was relevant.

If a male comparator worked in a different establishment, she was to be treated as in the same employment as him if her establishment and his were in the same concern and if at those establishments common terms and conditions were observed either generally or for employees of the relevant classes, that is the class of employee of which the woman was a member and the class of which the man was a member.

Before the woman could have an equality claim there must, either throughout the employment or at least in relation to the classes of employee to which each belonged, be uniformity of employment. A woman working in an establishment A, ex hypothesi doing work of the same value as the man, could not have an equality claim in respect of that man working at establishment B unless at least she and her fellow employees doing the same work as A and the man and his fellow-employees at B, each were subject to common terms and conditions.

Otherwise either the woman or the man or both might be a "rogue" enjoying uncommon terms and conditions of employment, possibly because of the particular establishment at which they worked.

If one adopted that approach to the construction of section 1(6) the result was sensible and in accordance with the obvious intent of the statutory provisions. That enabled one to give full scope to the words "which include that one".

In the instant case both the applicant and her comparators were employed on "common terms and conditions" at which-ever of the council's establishments they worked, namely, the terms and conditions in the purple book and agreed amendments to it. Therefore the applicant and her comparators were in the same employment as defined by section 1(6).

The mere fact that because the applicant normally worked fewer hours than the comparators and had longer holidays and conditions should be broadly similar; variations in pay or job description did not prevent there being common terms and conditions.

The section was not well drafted and either construction advanced in argument could throw up anomalies. However, the language of section 1(6) led more readily to that advanced by the council.

The applicant then sought to pray in aid European Community law in support of her construction. It was common ground that the court was required to construe English law so far as possible consistently with the relevant Community law. Having considered article 119 of the Treaty of Rome and the opinion of the Advocate General upon it in *Demme*, his Lordship did not consider that either construction of section 1(6) was more consistent with Community law than the other.

Moreover, the rights conferred on the applicant under article 119 could not be directly enforced without reference to more explicit implementing provisions of a Community or national character, and so if her claim were barred by section 1(6) there were no other implementing provisions which would enable her to enforce her rights under the Treaty.

The Divisional Court in *R v Secretary of State for Social Security, ex parte Jones* (1988) IRLR 22, 26 had not held that a section 1(3) defence could never be taken as a preliminary point, but that save

in exceptional circumstances the determination of such a defence would require evidence. In his Lordship's judgment the appeal tribunal had been right to require the industrial tribunal's decision that the section 1(3) defence had been established to be supported by evidence from which it could be drawn.

Since there had been no proper evidence from which it could be inferred that the differences in hours of work and holidays were a genuine material factor, it followed that there was no proper evidence to enable the industrial tribunal to hold that the objective test of justification propounded in *Ilke-Kaufhaus GmbH v Welter* (1987) ICR 103 and *Rayney v Glasgow Health Board* (1987) AC 224 had been satisfied.

The Court of Appeal in *Hayward v Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd* (No 2) (1988) QB 12 had not laid down any universal and invariable rule that it was proper to compare remuneration on an hourly basis, and the industrial tribunal had been entitled to reject such a comparison as unrealistic on the facts of this case.

**LORD JUSTICE STOCKER** said that the construction of section 1(6) adopted by the tribunals and Lord Justice Balcombe was correct, despite the fact that the literal interpretation of "common" in the sense of "identical" was impossible if any effect were to be given to the Act at all. The expression "broadly similar" was sufficient to establish a comparison as unrealistic on the facts of this case.

The grounds on which the industrial tribunal had found the section 1(3) defence proved were sufficient to establish from the evidence before it and its findings, and the appeal tribunal had therefore been wrong to over-rule it.

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involve a sufficient element of community to enable a proper comparison to be made. If they were employed at different establishments some further element of common identity was required to enable a proper comparison to be made; that element was to be found in the observance of the same terms and conditions of "common terms and conditions of employment".

That clearly did not mean "identical" terms and conditions, for that would defeat the whole purpose of the legislation. The proper interpretation of section 1(6) was that the terms and conditions should be broadly similar; variations in pay or job description did not prevent there being common terms and conditions.

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That clearly did not mean "identical" terms and conditions, for that would defeat the whole purpose of the legislation. The proper interpretation of section 1(6) was that the terms and conditions should be broadly similar; variations in pay or job description did not prevent there being common terms and conditions.

The section was not well drafted and either construction advanced in argument could throw up anomalies. However, the language of section 1(6) led more readily to that advanced by the council.

The applicant then sought to pray in aid European Community law in support of her construction. It was common ground that the court was required to construe English law so far as possible consistently with the relevant Community law. Having considered article 119 of the Treaty of Rome and the opinion of the Advocate General upon it in *Demme*, his Lordship did not consider that either construction of section 1(6) was more consistent with Community law than the other.

Moreover, the rights conferred on the applicant under article 119 could not be directly enforced without reference to more explicit implementing provisions of a Community or national character, and so if her claim were barred by section 1(6) there were no other implementing provisions which would enable her to enforce her rights under the Treaty.

The Divisional Court in *R v Secretary of State for Social Security, ex parte Jones* (1988) IRLR 22, 26 had not held that a section 1(3) defence could never be taken as a preliminary point, but that save

in exceptional circumstances the determination of such a defence would require evidence. In his Lordship's judgment the appeal tribunal had been right to require the industrial tribunal's decision that the section 1(3) defence had been established to be supported by evidence from which it could be drawn.

Since there had been no proper evidence from which it could be inferred that the differences in hours of work and holidays were a genuine material factor, it followed that there was no proper evidence to enable the industrial tribunal to hold that the objective test of justification propounded in *Ilke-Kaufhaus GmbH v Welter* (1987) ICR 103 and *Rayney v Glasgow Health Board* (1987) AC 224 had been satisfied.

The Court of Appeal in *Hayward v Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd* (No 2) (1988) QB 12 had not laid down any universal and invariable rule that it was proper to compare remuneration on an hourly basis, and the industrial tribunal had been entitled to reject such a comparison as unrealistic on the facts of this case.

**LORD JUSTICE STOCKER** said that the construction of section 1(6) adopted by the tribunals and Lord Justice Balcombe was correct, despite the fact that the literal interpretation of "common" in the sense of "identical" was impossible if any effect were to be given to the Act at all. The expression "broadly similar" was sufficient to establish a comparison as unrealistic on the facts of this case.

The grounds on which the industrial tribunal had found the section 1(3) defence proved were sufficient to establish from



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## NICHOLSON GRAHAM &amp; JONES

**Construction  
Lawyer  
£25,000-  
£45,000.**

The rapid growth of the Construction Law Unit within this successful fifteen partner City based practice has created the need for an additional Construction Lawyer, with relevant experience gained either in a London practice or industry. Whilst younger applicants with good commercial awareness should not be deterred from applying, preference will be given to applicants who have a proven track record and a dynamic approach to legal problems.

Applicants should be able to advise on all kinds of construction-related activities including design and build agreements, management contracts, procurement and engineering contracts, and professional appointments. Experience of project finance, the negotiation of construction related disputes and the conduct of litigation and arbitration proceedings would be an added advantage.

An outstanding remuneration package includes twice yearly salary reviews, annual bonus, pension contribution, permanent health and life insurance, and where appropriate, relocation expenses.

The practice is committed to developing the construction law unit and will be quick to recognise and reward partnership potential. This is an ideal opportunity for an individual keen to progress within a challenging and fulfilling environment.

For further details of the post please write in the strictest confidence to Judith Farmer at BADENOC & CLARK, 6th Floor, 29-31 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RE, or telephone her on 01-583 0073 during business hours or 01-809 4974 evenings and weekends.

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**SENIOR LITIGATOR  
£35k-£45k**

Our client is an established and progressive West-End based practice, offering a wide range of commercial services to an impressive list of private and publicly quoted companies.

As a result of its commitment to expansion, it currently has requirements for a senior litigator and an experienced property lawyer, each of whom must have the ability and commercial awareness to take on a demanding and varied caseload.

Candidates for the litigation position must be able to demonstrate substantial recent experience of Landlord and Tenant and property related work, and general civil commercial litigation matters. It is anticipated that the person appointed will be 5-8 years qualified and of sufficient calibre to progress to salaried partnership level within a short space of time.

Applicants for the property position should be at least 3 years qualified with knowledge of substantial and complex commercial conveyancing transactions having an emphasis on development work. The successful candidate must demonstrate the flair and ability to work directly with prestigious clients. There are excellent prospects for early progression to partnership for high fliers and those with a demonstrated track record.

For further details of these positions, please write in the strictest confidence to Judith Farmer of Badenoch and Clark, 6th Floor, 29-31 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RE, or telephone her on 01-583 0073 during office hours, 01-809 4974 evenings and weekends.

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## COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson, the international merchant bank, seeks a qualified Solicitor/Barrister to assist the Group Legal Adviser with a demanding workload in a thriving in-house department.

Candidates should be aged late 20's, with up to 3 years banking/financial experience, acquired in a similar financial institution or a City practice, and must demonstrate the versatility and commercial acumen necessary to undertake a broad spectrum of legal duties. These will include drafting financial agreements, negotiating contracts, and advising on banking/securities law.

An attractive remuneration package reflects the importance attached to this key position.

For further details please contact Tim Knight on 01-583 0073 (or 01-622 6905 outside office hours), or write to him at 16-18 New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London EC4V 6AU.

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## COMMERCE &amp; INDUSTRY

## WEST END OFFICE

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new West End office and welcome applications from Solicitors or Barristers wishing to move into commerce and industry from private practice or those who are currently in-house and seek a fresh challenge.

We have a variety of opportunities for commercially-minded lawyers in all sectors, including manufacturing, retail, property, advertising and energy based organisations.

For an initial discussion in the strictest confidence, please contact Robert Drury on 01-583 0073 (24 hours), 6th Floor, 29-31 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RE.

## CITY OFFICE

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a bright young lawyer to join an established, reputable insurance company. Joining a small busy department, the successful applicant, a barrister or solicitor aged up to 28, will have fluency in a European language and will deal with a variety of litigious matters including advising prestigious clients on a range of legal problems. A good salary will be offered, commensurate with age and experience.

For details of these and other vacancies please contact Lisa Wilson or Tim Knight on 01-583 0073 (24 hours), 16-18 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6AU.

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Negotiable salary

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As part of the development plan there now exists a requirement for a Director of Administration. This new and challenging position encompasses responsibility for a number of key areas crucial to the organisation's future growth. These include: staff recruitment, training and administration; office management and planning; marketing and new business development.

Candidates are likely to be aged 30 to 45, with experience of managing a modern administrative function in a large professional service environment. Experience of a legal practice would be advantageous, as would a good knowledge of modern office technology and exposure to the marketing of professional services.

The starting salary depends on age and experience, and relocation costs will be paid, where necessary, to this attractive Midlands location.

To apply please write or telephone for an application form, or send a detailed CV, quoting reference number PBM/2158/TR to Tim Roffe, PA Personnel Services, 6 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3DJ. Telephone 021-454 5791.

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## Lawyers

**£25K  
+ car  
+ benefits  
City based**

**LLOYD'S**  
LLOYD'S OF LONDON

The Corporation of Lloyd's is responsible for the administration and regulation of the Lloyd's insurance market. The Solicitors Department is involved in a wide range of activities giving legal advice to the Corporation on general and commercial matters as well as advising on the regulation of underwriting members, Lloyd's underwriting agents and brokers. We are also responsible for drafting subordinate legislation and conducting investigatory, disciplinary and court proceedings on behalf of the Corporation.

We are presently seeking two people, both of whom should have qualified either as a Barrister or Solicitor.

## Two Commercial Lawyers

(Qualified in excess of 2 years). To handle a wide range of commercial work together with some legislative drafting.

Candidates must have a good academic record and commercial awareness. We are offering salaries of up to £25,000 (according to age and experience) plus car. Benefits include mortgage assistance, non-contributory pension, private and permanent health insurance, season ticket loan and subsidised luncheons.

Please send written applications with full C.V. (quoting reference PD394) to Christopher Hooper, Personnel Department, Lloyd's, London House, 6 London Street, London EC3 7AB.

**TEXACO**

Commercial  
Lawyer

The Texaco UK Group of Companies is part of a multinational organisation headed by Texaco Inc. They are in their own right a fully integrated group involved in every aspect of the oil industry.

An opportunity for an experienced commercial lawyer has arisen within the head office Legal Department based in Knightsbridge. Working as an integral member of the small team, you will be called upon to take an active and flexible role in the continued development of the legal service provided to all levels within the Company. There will be a high volume of work from all areas of the business including exploration and production, refining and marketing which will be varied and interesting. Specific responsibilities will include advising on and drafting a variety of commercial agreements, joint venture work and employment law matters.

Applications are invited from lawyers who have preferably gained experience in a commercial environment and have the inclination to deal with a wide variety of matters. They should also possess the business skills to meet the challenges of this demanding role. Previous experience within the oil industry, although advantageous, is not essential.

An attractive benefits package including a highly competitive salary and pension scheme are offered with this position. Texaco is an equal opportunities employer.

For further information please contact Gary James at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5LL. Telephone: 01-583 7800.

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Quick Europe Limited has established its European headquarters in the City of London, to provide on-line information on the Japanese and international financial markets.

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The post requires extensive experience of commercial contracts including Lease/Maintenance contracts on a European basis, sales and international user agreements. Ideally, you should also have some experience of Estate Management and Employment legislation.

The right candidate (male or female) will ideally be aged between 28 to 35 years plus, have a relevant

legal qualification and live within easy travelling distance of Liverpool Street.

In return, you can expect an excellent working environment, complimented by an attractive salary and comprehensive benefits package.

For immediate consideration please send your C.V., stating current salary to:

Miss V. Roe  
Personnel Officer  
Quick Europe Limited  
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London EC4V 6BJ

Please mark the envelope 'Private & Confidential'

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS 14th April 1988

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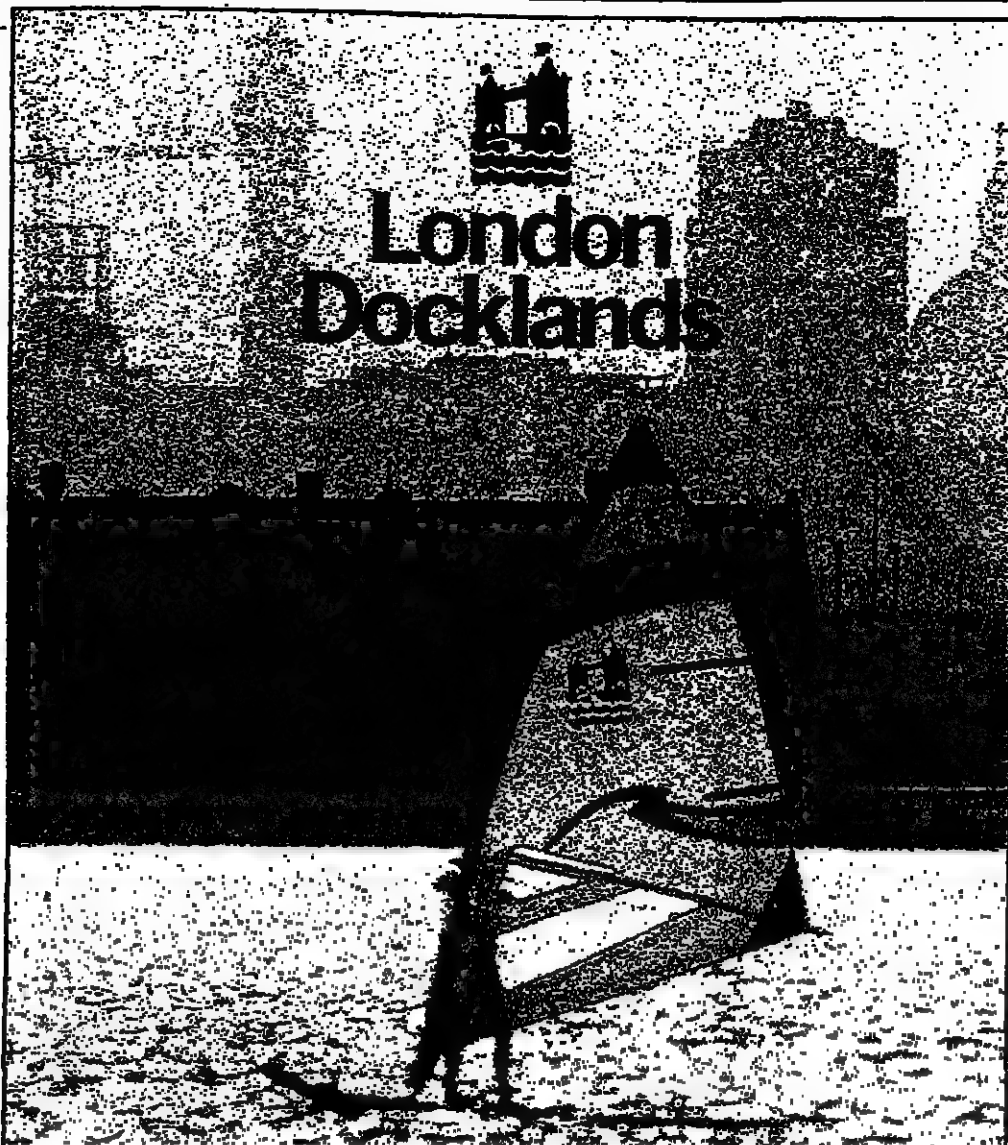
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# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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## London Docklands Corporation Solicitor

Circa £25,000 + Car Scheme

London Docklands Development Corporation is responsible for securing the permanent regeneration of London's Docklands and is the most significant and far reaching development project in Europe.

The Corporation Solicitor is responsible for managing the small in-house Legal Team which, with the support of external firms, provides legal advice to the Board, Senior Management and Staff on a wide range of legal issues with particular reference to planning and property matters. The team supports the Corporation in connection with its statutory functions and is involved with the legal formalities associated with such issues as acquisitions, disposals, compulsory purchase, litigation, public enquiries and promotion of companies and charities.

This is a senior appointment which requires good management skills in addition to good all round legal knowledge and practical understanding of property and planning law.

Candidates seeking the opportunity for close involvement in this development process as part of a management team should offer relevant experience together with the ability to cope with a demanding schedule.

Candidates should write to me for an application form: David Lowman, Head of Personnel and Administration, London Docklands Development Corporation, Great Eastern Enterprise, Millharbour, London E14 9TJ. Applications will be reviewed on Monday, 25th April, 1988.

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We are currently looking for a Lawyer to advise on such matters and to become involved in the day-to-day running of the legal department. The successful applicant is likely to be a Solicitor or Barrister with some years' post qualification experience and an interest in working and developing within commercial environment.

Please write with full cv to Nigel Towse, Personnel Recruitment, Imperial Court, 225 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QX.

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Tax

Candidates should be solicitors or, in the case of the tax position, accountants with between one and five years relevant experience. Newly qualified applicants or those qualifying this year with good experience in articles will be considered.

Please telephone me, Laurence Simons on 01 242 6644 or 01 485 1345 (evenings/weekends), or write to LAURENCE SIMONS ASSOCIATES, 33 John's Mews, London, WC1N 2NS.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

## LAWFORD & CO PROPERTY

Considerable client expansion dictates that we engage an ambitious and personable recently qualified Property Lawyer.

Positive career for the right individual. Please telephone or write with C.V. to

Personnel Manager,  
Lawford & Co.,  
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London, WC2R 3JJ.  
Tel: 01 353 5099.

## Assistant Company Secretary

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Please forward your C.V. to:

Mr J E A Bryant, Company Secretary, Erkine House Group PLC,  
Erkine House, Oak Hill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 1NW

## Commercial Property Development

£ Substantial

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## LEGAL CO-ORDINATOR

Our client is involved in Europe's largest commercial property development. They seek an experienced lawyer to be the legal co-ordinator of the project.

The successful applicant will be based in Central London and will be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating all aspects of Legal work arising from the project and for providing continuity throughout the development. He/she will liaise with all external legal advisers.

Applications are sought from solicitors with experience of complex funding and development work. They will probably be in partnership now or may be due for promotion in the near future. A very substantial salary will be offered which will reflect the importance our client attaches to this unique appointment. On completion of the project, equity partnership with a leading City firm of solicitors will be available.

To discuss this excellent opportunity further call Piers Williams or Clare Tattersall on 01-405 6852 or write to us at Reuter Simkin Limited, 26/28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE.

## Company Secretary

Covent Garden

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The Board of Addison Consultancy Group plc has announced its intention to demerge its recruitment activities, (subject to shareholder approval), thereby forming Michael Page Group plc.

This has created the requirement for a Company Secretary who, reporting directly to the Board, will provide a full company secretarial service to Michael Page Group plc. Specific responsibilities will include the maintenance of statutory books, liaison with the registrar, management of share option schemes, the control of properties, and business/corporate insurances.

The position would be ideally suited to a part or fully qualified ACIS who has gained experience of the above in a quoted company and is seeking a fresh challenge in a rapidly expanding, international group. In addition to the technical requirements, applicants must also be able to demonstrate the skills of effective communication at senior management level and the ability to provide advice in a practical and business-like manner.

An attractive salary and benefits package is offered with this position.

For further details please contact Gary James on 01-831 2000 or write to him at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5LH.



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## Criminal Lawyer

£18,900 - £22,790

Croydon

The Solicitor to The Post Office wishes to recruit a Solicitor for the Prosecution Division of his Office following a retirement. The Office is situated in Croydon.

The Division is responsible for conducting prosecutions for criminal offences committed against the Post Office including offences involving Girobank and the Department of National Savings; and also gives advice and assistance to the National Television Licence Records Office.

Solicitors conduct their own cases in Magistrates Courts in Southern England, instruct Solicitor Agents in the rest of England and Wales and are responsible for instructing Counsel in the Crown Court.

Applicants ideally should have one to two years' experience in criminal law either prosecuting or defending.

Starting salary will be in the range quoted which includes an Outer London Allowance of £790. There are excellent prospects for promotion to the next grade.

Additional benefits include contributory Superannuation Scheme, five weeks' Annual Leave and relocation assistance will be available where appropriate.

Application forms can be obtained from Martin Gibson, Room 536, Post Office Headquarters, 33 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 1PX. Telephone 01-245 7083. Closing date for applications: 15th April 1988.

The Post Office is an equal opportunities employer.

## The Post Office



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to handle a large and varied caseload. An attractive starting salary is offered together with a car and other benefits, and there is a real prospect of an early partnership.

For more details contact John Fox or Michael Kent on Chichester (0243) 778844

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Full training will be given in all aspects of a London local government practice. You may be entitled to relocation expenses which will include 100% legal fees involved for housing sale and purchase, 100% removal expenses, temporary lodging allowance plus a settling allowance of £923 in respect of incidental expenses incurred.



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THE WEST LONDON BOROUGH

Hillingdon as an equal opportunities employer, welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of race, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation and disability.

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Nottinghamshire Magistrates Courts Committee

Mansfield Magistrates Court

## Court Clerk/Senior Court Clerk

CC/PAD 8-12/14-18

We are looking for a solicitor or barrister. The postholder will be expected to take all types of court although training will be available if experience is lacking in any particular area. In addition there will be full involvement in the administration of the court and some opportunities to assist with the training of magistrates. The postholder may be expected to clerk courts at Newark, Worksop and Retford and thus it would be desirable to have a full driving licence. Mansfield is a busy market town in a Division with a population approaching 200,000. Commencing salary will depend on experience but an applicant with 3 years experience in all courts could expect to be appointed within points 14-18. Articles of Clerkship may be available to the right applicant.

If you are interested, further information may be obtained from the Deputy Clerk, Mr. D. J. Folland on Mansfield 24657. Applications (marked "confidential") together with the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted to M. J. Friel, Clerk to the Justices, The Court House, 30 Potter Street, Worksop, Notts S80 2AJ. Closing date 11 April. Please quote ref: 123.

## ASSHETONS 99 Aldwych London WC2B 4JF

Require:

- (1) A 2 to 4 year qualified Solicitor Litigation Department. The right person will be able to conduct his/her own cases with minimal supervision. The work will involve a wide variety of litigation with a strong commercial basis.

CV to Mr A G Thornhill

- (2) A newly qualified Solicitor to assist two Company Commercial Partners with a wide range of corporate matters including some commercial conveyancing.

CV to Mr G S Smith

## SOLICITORS HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX

We require the following staff to complement our present team:-

1. A Solicitor willing to undertake advocacy in connection with criminal and matrimonial law.
2. A Legal Executive experienced in General Litigation and Matrimonial matters.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of criminal law and be familiar with both County Court and Magistrates Court procedures.

3. Articles clerks to commence articles in 1988/89. In return for your talents and enthusiasm we will offer you a happy working environment and a very competitive salary.

Are you interested?  
If so, send details of your career to date to:-  
Stuart Faires.

Practice Manager,  
Cool & Haddock with Cotchings,  
14 Carfax,  
HORSHAM,  
West Sussex RH12 1DZ.

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Court clerk CC/PAD 3-7

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There is opportunity to officiate regularly in all courts and have administrative responsibility with contact with advanced computer system.

The appointment is superannuable and subject to J.N.C. conditions, as locally supplemented. Generous allowances are provided for removal, resettlement and lodging in appropriate instances.

Applications in writing, with full CV, providing names/addresses of two referees, should be submitted immediately in envelopes marked "Confidential - Court Clerk".

David Redston, Solicitor, Clerk to the Justices, Magistrates Court, Woodfield Road, Crawley, West Sussex.



# Head of Legal

## NORTH OF ENGLAND

Our clients are one of the largest construction and engineering groups in the UK, with subsidiaries in the USA and Australia. They have a remarkably diverse range of operations - from motorways to offshore oil, and from housebuilding in England to electrical power in Africa. Turnover is about £800 million a year, employing over 16,000 people worldwide.

They now wish to recruit a Head of Legal Department, to be based in the North West. Candidates should be solicitors or barristers, and have recent exposure to construction and engineering. Aged between 35 and 55 years, candidates should be good communicators and be able to work with

all levels of management. You will be required to give first line advice to the Main Board on legal and commercial matters and to organize legal services to support the work of Group subsidiaries. Work will include the full range of corporate and commercial activity to be expected in a Group of this scale. Some overseas travel will be involved.

The position reports to a Main Board Director. An excellent salary will be offered, to reflect the seniority of this position, plus bonus, car, and usual large company benefits.

For further details please telephone Sonya Rayner, or write to her with a copy of your c.v.

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AND PARTNERS

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Tel: 8951182 (01) 606 9371 Fax (01) 600 1793

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City

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Litigation Partner Designate

Contact Alison Diamond

North East

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Birmingham

Contact Nick Galvin

Early partnership for co/comm. solicitor with 3 yrs' exp. Small dynamic firm with mainly commercial clientele. to £25,000 pa.

Co/Commercial Partner Designate

W. Yorkshire

Contact Alison Diamond

Solicitor with over 3 years' co/comm. exp. to run expanding department of successful medium-sized firm. £15-30,000 pa.

Head of Commercial Practice

Oxfordshire

Contact Fiona Young

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London (Holborn)

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Are you experienced in handling disputes arising from international trade transactions?

If so, you could be the young Solicitor we are looking for to join our team concentrating on this area of law which includes shipping, insurance and international labour law problems.

With up to 3 years' post-qualification experience, you will be acting mainly for one major client whose high activity in the shipping field produces many and varied legal problems. You must, therefore, be knowledgeable about international trade transactions and have a general interest in the shipping industry. You will also be enthusiastic and capable of independent or team work.

Send your full c.v. to Gillian Tamsett,  
Personnel Manager,

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RMC

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An exciting and challenging career opportunity has arisen for a young, commercially minded solicitor to join the legal department of this major British Group.

The RMC Group has a well earned reputation for the profitable growth of its diverse activities ranging from a traditional base in the supply of construction materials, to DIY retailing, security alarms, builders merchants and waste disposal. As part of a small high-profile legal team you will provide a legal service to all UK Divisions. Reporting to the Head of the Legal Department you will be involved in a broad range of matters, principally property related including land and property acquisitions, property disposals, planning and commercial advice.

Applications are invited from solicitors with a minimum of one year's post

qualification experience and the ability and personality to forge close working relationships with senior management throughout the UK. A competitive salary package including a company car is offered, together with excellent prospects for career progression.

Initially based at their Head Office, West of London, you will relocate in approximately two years' to a new International Headquarters currently being built in delightful surroundings near Thorpe, Surrey.

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London EC4A 1LT.

### LEGAL ADVISOR TO FAST GROWING QUOTED PLC

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## Whiteside puts in a transfer request

By Ian Ross

Norman Whiteside, Manchester United and Northern Ireland footballer, has officially asked to be placed on the transfer list.

Whiteside is angry at his failure to secure an improved contract despite prolonged discussions with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, and has now declared his intention of severing his links with Old Trafford — possibly at the end of the season.

Whiteside's present contract expires in 14 months' time and he had been looking for a lengthy extension — possibly as much as five years.

But Ferguson, a man who believes that all footballers should prove their worth on a season to season basis, has refused to negotiate a new deal over the past few months, and with the two parties having reached an impasse the problem now seems destined to be resolved in the open transfer market.

Whiteside, a firm favourite with an Old Trafford public which has grown increasingly impatient for success on the Football League front over the past few years, is known to be angry at what he sees as preferential treatment afforded to the three players Ferguson has brought to the club since he took over as manager some 15 months ago.

Brian McClair and Steve Bruce have both signed long-term deals and Viv Anderson, the veteran England international defender, signed a contract when he joined from Arsenal which will tie him to the club until he is 35.

Despite being only 22, Belfast-born Whiteside, who joined United straight from school and worked his way up through the ranks, has played more than 200 league games and scored almost 50 goals.

If Whiteside's request is granted by the United board of directors it will undoubtedly lead to a scramble for his services with offers around the £1 million mark likely to be lodged by top clubs both at home and abroad.

Graeme Souness, the manager of Rangers, has already declared his interest in the ebullient Whiteside and several leading Italian sides are known to have been monitoring the situation with interest over the past few weeks.

Whiteside last night confirmed that he had asked for a move saying: "It is true, I have asked for a transfer but I don't want to say anything more at this stage. I am going to Belfast for a while."

## Norwich block the Welsh

The Welsh FA were dealt another blow yesterday in their search for a manager for the national side when Norwich City withdrew the services of David Williams, their player-coach.

Williams took charge of the team for last week's international against Yugoslavia, but yesterday Robert Chase, the Norwich chairman, said: "We were pleased to make David available for last week's game, but we made it quite clear at the time that it was a one-off situation."

"If the Welsh secretary comes back to us to ask for his services again, we must regretfully say no. We see David's future here with Norwich and we cannot see that he can suitably combine duties at club and international level."

The Welsh FA had hoped Williams would at least be able to take Wales into their next international, against Sweden in Stockholm on April 27.

For his part, Williams accepted the decision. He said: "I couldn't do it part-time without one or the other suffering."

## Oxford establish records at Boat Race weigh-in



Nine in a row: the Oxford University crew training on The Tideway after the official weigh-in yesterday for the 134th Boat Race on Saturday (Photograph: Peter Trierborn)

By Jim Ralston

Oxford University will not only have a two-year advantage in age in their Boat Race on Saturday for their defence of the Beefeater Gin Trophy but also the heaviest crew in the history of the race. Oxford weighed in yesterday, averaging 14st 11½lb, 11 pounds heavier than Cambridge and that is a mighty advantage, if they apply the power efficiently.

Cambridge will have an average of 14st and ½lb, the second heaviest Cambridge light blue crew of all time just one pound less than their losing crew in 1983. The aggregate

weight of both crews in this year's 134th Boat Race is also a record. Oxford hold the edge in weight despite the sixth man Gavin Stewart weighing in at 16st 4lb — three pounds less than the record he established last year.

Two of the tallest competitors will feature this year. Gavin Stewart, of Oxford, holds the record at 6ft 8½in while Guy Pooley, of Cambridge, stands at 6ft 8in.

The good news for Cambridge yesterday was that Nicholas Grundy has recovered from a bout of tonsillitis, and will take his place in

the crew for Saturday. Grundy was prominent yesterday when Cambridge undertook boat starts in the morning.

Oxford postponed a major outing against Isis until yesterday morning. Monday blues were almost shrugged off when Oxford, on the Middlessex station, racing from Putney pier to Chiswick Steps, gave their reserves just over a length start, drew level in just over one minute and despite a slight lapse at low rates, went out to victory by more than five lengths.

COXSWAIN: "N" M. P. (St. Edward's, Oxford and Christ Church), bow, 13st 7½lb; "P" G. (St. John's)

Merlin's, Brentwood and Hertford), 15st 11lb; "H" (Wymondham, Robinson College, Cambridge and Oriel), 14st 7½lb; "C" G. (Penny St. George's, Princeton University and St. John's), 15st 13½lb; "T" A. D. (Cadogan-Hassan, Radley, St. Mary's Hospital, London and New College), 14st 6lb; "B" B. (St. Edmund's, Bournemouth and Wadham), 14st 4½lb; "J" C. (St. John's, Cambridge and Christ Church), 14st 13lb; "M" G. (Harrow and Christ Church), 14st 13lb; "A" D. (Lobbs, Shrewsbury and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "S" S. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb.

CAMBRIDGE: "R" H. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "M" J. K. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "J" C. T. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "S" S. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "B" B. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "T" A. D. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "H" (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "C" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "P" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "N" M. P. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb.

"A" Blue  
bow, D. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "M" J. K. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "J" C. T. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "S" S. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "B" B. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "T" A. D. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "H" (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "C" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "P" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "N" M. P. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb.

GOLDIE: "P" Barber (KCS Wimbledon and Emmanuel), bow, M. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "H" (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "C" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "P" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "N" M. P. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "B" B. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "T" A. D. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "H" (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "C" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "P" G. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb; "N" M. P. (St. John's, Cambridge and Balliol), 14st 11lb.

## Moynihan waits before acting on S Africa tour

By John Goodbody

The Government is hesitating about calling in representatives of the four home Rugby Unions to discuss the selection of British players for this summer's proposed World XV tour of South Africa, a visit which could provoke a boycott by black African nations of the Olympic Games.

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, is understood to be reluctant to act at the moment because no British players have been approached through the unions, and also because the players are going there as individuals, and not with representative teams.

However, I believe that when the South African Rugby Board (SARB) inevitably choose British players, then Moynihan will follow the example of his predecessors and be duty-bound, under the Gleneagles Declaration, to tell the unions of the Government's disapproval of

sporting links with South Africa.

Amadou Lamine Ba, the secretary general of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, has told *The Times* in Morocco that there would be an Olympic boycott by up to 50 nations if efforts to stop the tour fail.

"We first appeal to the member countries of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) to withdraw," Lamine Ba said. "A boycott of the Games is the last card and we will not play it at the start. But if that in the end is the only option, we will play it. We will use everything at our disposal."

Moynihan will come under pressure from opposition parties to persuade the four home unions from sanctioning the visit to South Africa.

The Labour Party has always disapproved of sporting links with South Africa and yesterday, Menzies Campbell, the spokesman on sport for

the Social Liberal Democrats and a former captain of the British athletics team, said: "I am disappointed with the Minister for Sport's rather neutral response. Sportsmen and women have got to realize that there is some interdependency between them."

"It is no longer possible to take a selfish attitude towards one's own aspirations when the consequences may be to destroy or reduce other people's aspirations. If Wales is really serious about staging the 1994 Commonwealth Games, then no Welshmen should go to South Africa and the other home unions should be pressed to do the same for their own players."

There is a limit to what the Government can do, short of withdrawing the passports of those individuals who are chosen. The four home unions do not even depend heavily on the Government's money for their administration.

However, the reaction in

the Olympic movement was that the tour should not affect the Games. Michele Verdier, a spokeswoman for the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, was limited to saying that the tour only concerns Rugby Union, which is not an Olympic sport.

In London, Charles Palmer, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, was asked by *The Times* whether it would seek a meeting with the four home unions. He replied: "No such proposal has ever been considered before, although the general purposes committee could consider it. The association has always believed it to be a futile exercise because we have no jurisdiction over rugby."

"We can no more stop the four home unions from allowing players to go to South Africa than Mrs Thatcher could stop the British Olympic Association from sending a team to the Moscow Olympics."

## Onus on TCCB after Botham is fined £2,000

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

The strength of English cricket's loudly heralded hard line on players' conduct is about to undergo its first and sternest test. If all the worldly words and promises have any meaning, Peter May will soon be told that Ian Botham should be eliminated from his summer planning.

Sad and self-denying though it may be for the England team, how can there be any other honest outcome from the recent events in Australia, which climaxed yesterday with the Australian Cricket Board imposing fines totalling £2,000 on the man who apparently finds it impossible to stay out of trouble? The Australian authorities may not have finished with Botham yet; his three-year contract with Queensland comes under review today and may well be terminated with two years of it still to run.

The immediate response of the Test and County Cricket Board, having received a full report of Botham's Australian offences, was to announce that they would be taking no further action, presumably on the basis that a man cannot be punished twice for the same offence. This, however, does not preclude a directive to the selectors indicating that Botham should form no part in their thoughts for the demanding series against the West Indies.

Alan Smith, the Board chief executive, consulted rapidly with his chairman, Raman Subba Row, and with Peter Bromage, chairman of the disciplinary committee, before releasing a stark statement of no intent on the issue. "We note that Ian Botham has been dealt with by the Western Australia civil court and by the cricket authorities in Australia," Smith said. "In the circumstances, no further action will be taken under the disciplinary committee regulations."

The TCCB, whose executive committee is due to meet next week, may well have found themselves ham-

pered by legal constraints, quite apart from any moral inhibitions on the score of foreign territory. The fact is, of course, that Botham's hoodlums behaviour, both in a Tasmanian dressing-room and on a trans-Australian aircraft, was perpetrated while he was not under contract either to the TCCB or to his English county, Worcestershire. This is a complication, but it must not be a deterrent.

It is barely a month since the Board delegates drew themselves up to their full authoritative height and delivered the stricture that anyone who did not conduct themselves acceptably, on or off the field, could not be expected to play for England again.

Predictably, Botham himself is aggressively unrepentant about his position. "Anyone can blow the smallest molehill into a mountain," he has declared. "I would like to think the British public will judge me as the person they know and not the person they read about..." It is a familiar, hackneyed theme — the aggrieved superstar blaming the media for his troubles.

Pertinent comments came from Ron Archer, of the Queensland Code of Behaviour Commission. "I am cognisant of the fact that Ian Botham is a larger than life personality and as such attracts attention from the media and public some of which may be unfair. I am, however, convinced on this occasion his actions, while possibly exaggerated in the media, were extremely detrimental to the game of cricket."

He added that he had considered suspension and concluded: "If a similar breach of the code comes before me during the next season then Ian Botham will have a long holiday from the cricket fields of Australia."

Botham, apparently, "couldn't give a stuff", to use his own phrase. This is simply because he has too often run such risks in the past. The rules have changed now; if any England player, on the recently completed tour, had behaved in the fashion Botham has apparently now done twice, he would not have expected to play Test cricket again. It could still be that Botham, for all his bristling terms with that possibility as he tramps the Alps in aid of charity — as ever, the impossible, infuriating mix of the kind heart and the head which will not learn.

• Dennis Lillee was fined A\$1,800 by the Australian Cricket Board yesterday for his part in the dressing room incident.

Win a trip to Badminton  
Tomorrow *The Times* features another exciting sports competition — this time the prize is a weekend at the Whitbread championships three-day event at Badminton, complete with first-class accommodation, two days at the event, tickets for an evening at the theatre, and a presentation hamper. Full details will be in *The Times* tomorrow.

## World XV men's burden

By Michael Cleary

The International Rugby Football Board's decision to permit a World XV to tour South Africa this year — with an African boycott as a possible consequence — has placed a huge burden of responsibility on the players who may be invited to tour.

Most will agonize long and hard over their decision but Chris Oti, England's black winger, has already made his. His presence on the tour would be a great propaganda coup for those favouring links with South Africa and he said yesterday: "There's no way that I would go to South Africa to play rugby. I'd be delighted and honoured to be chosen to be part of a world squad but there's absolutely nothing that would change my viewpoint."

Of course, it's a very sad situation because first and foremost I consider myself to be a sportsman and I don't want to make an issue of my

colour, but at the same time I can't deny it."

Another who will not be making the trip, though for entirely different reasons, is Nigel Melville, England's captain until he broke a leg against Ireland 10 days ago. Even if he were fully fit, Melville is not certain what decision he would have made. "The whole issue is so dreadfully complicated. A large part of me says 'no' because I've never been and I've always believed that one should try to experience things at first hand before giving an opinion. I also believe that sport and politics should be separate."

"So much for my ideals. The reality of the matter is that in this situation sport and politics are inextricably linked. You just can't shut your eyes and say they aren't. Furthermore you can't just ignore the wider implications of your decision. The Olympics are the most important

event in sport and we should be sensitive to that. In many ways, the timing of this announcement is all wrong and has now placed an unfair burden on those who will be approached to tour."

Two such players may be Jonathan Davies, the Wales fly-half, and Brendan Mullin, the Irish centre, both of whom have particular problems to consider. Davies is flying to Bermuda tomorrow to take part in an exhibition match. In order to get a visa for entry to the country he had to sign a letter dissociating himself from sporting links with South Africa, having once himself been on the United Nations blacklist.

Mullin's difficulty is unique. He has already expressed a firm desire to actually compete in this year's Olympics. His best time for the 110m hurdles is only just short of the qualifying standard for the Irish squad

## RFU come under fire from Scots

By David Hands

The Rugby Football Union were criticised by their Scottish counterparts yesterday over the Calcutta Cup affair.

The damaged cup was displayed for the first time in Edinburgh and Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, said his union was "extremely disappointed at the nominal action taken by the RFU" in banning Dean Richards for only one match — the millennium match with Ireland next month.

The SRU have made no amendment to the suspension until August 31 of John Jeffrey, the Keirio flanker who, with Richards, the Leicester No 8, was the prime mover in the incident which led to £1,000-worth of damage to the cup.

McEnroe declines

## McEnroe declines

John McEnroe, the former world No. 1, has shipped to 25th in the latest Association of Tennis Professionals computer rankings. It is the first time in 10 years that McEnroe has dropped out of the top 20.

Title reward  
Gary Cooper, the British lightweight boxing champion, will receive the biggest purse of his 10-year career, £13,500, when he defends his title against Gary Stretch at Portsmouth next month.

## Roche back

Paris (AFP) — Stephen Roche, of Ireland, the world cycling champion, will make his race comeback on Monday in the Boucles du Paysan.



McEnroe: out of top 20

Another ban  
Ian Harrison, the Plymouth Albion lock, has been suspended by the club after he missed the coach for Albion's visit to Nuneaton in a Courage Clubs rugby union championship game on Saturday. He was also withdrawn by the club from the match against the Japanese touring team, Toshiba. Harrison was banned for 60 days earlier in the season after being sent off in the Devon-Gloucestershire county game.

## Famous five

David Broome heads a five-pronged British challenge in the Rome and Lucerne Nations' Cup show jumping events on April 26 to 30 and May 12 to 15. Broome is joined by Nick Skelton, Robert Smith, Joe Turi and Michael Whitaker.

## Master Lyle

Sandy Lyle has confirmed his entry for the £250,000 Dunhill British Masters at Woburn from July 2 to 5. Lyle will join Lee Trevino, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and the Open champion, Nick Faldo.

## Tokyo hosts

Tokyo will host the 1989 Federation Cup women's team competition, the International Tennis Federation announced yesterday. The tournament will be staged from October 1 to 8.

END COLUMN

## Lifting lid off Balkan wounds

By Chris Thur

The European weightlifting championships in Cardiff next month will see the re-emergence of the man who is, pound for pound, the strongest in the world: now he is named Naim Sulaymanoglu, of Turkey; until two years ago, he was Naim Shalamanov, of Bulgaria.

Born in Bulgaria to a Turkish family named Sulaymanov 20 years ago, he became the youngest world record-holder and junior champion at 14.

During the Bulgarianisation waged against the ethnic Turks, Sulaymanoglu was forced to change his name to Shalamanov. He then became the first lifter able to raise three times his own body-weight above his head. He shook the sport when he broke the world record in the clean and jerk of the 60kg division with a heave of 180kg. He then registered 79 world records and was regarded as invincible.

His defection in December 1986 in Melbourne, after winning the World Cup for an unprecedented third time, shocked Bulgaria and left Ivan Abagiev, his coach, inconsolable. Shalamanov had been worshipped in Bulgaria: virtually every national award and distinction, including the Hero of Socialist Labour title, was bestowed on him.

Weightlifting is Bulgaria's national sport and Shalamanov's decision to defect was so painful, the Bulgarians claimed, he had been kidnapped by agents of the Turkish intelligence.

The treatment he received in Turkey made the Bulgarian angrier. Even before his arrival for the red carpet treatment in Ankara, Sulaymanoglu was adopted by Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister. He gave a series of well-publicized conferences denouncing the repression of Turks and spoke about tragedies and massacres. He gave the Bulgarianisation programme as reason for his defection and request for political asylum.

Sofia was enraged. Centuries-old feuds re-emerged; exchanges between Bulgaria and Turkey became sharper; and the prospect of an understanding increasingly remote. The Balkans were smouldering again.

Sulaymanoglu made no secret about wishing to compete for his adopted country. But he had to wait for a year, according to the International Weightlifting Federation eligibility rule.

Little of his prowess was heard and claims were made that he was unhappy with his training facilities and medical back-up. Yet the Turks spared no expense to please him, and a Swedish firm built him a gym fitted with the latest equipment, although he apparently resented the tight security. However, the arrival of another Bulgarian defector, also an ethnic Turk, Ilyas Sukruoglu, did a lot to improve his spirits.

He broke his own record in December in a competition in Antalya, but the IWF refused to ratify the total of 335kg because no drug-testing took place. Yet that performance showed that he was back to his best form. The European championships in Cardiff should confirm his invincible status as Bulgaria, hoping at first to boycott the competition over Sulaymanoglu, were told by Gottfried Schedl, the IWF president, "As far as we are concerned, he is eligible to lift in any IWF competition."

At a recent Balkans conference, the Sulaymanoglu issue was discussed and a dramatic improvement in relations between the countries paved the way for him to appear in Cardiff. However, it looks as if the Balkan defector does not extend to the Olympics. IWF sources suggest that Bulgaria still insist on his being barred from Seoul as they claim he was an Army officer at the time of his defection and therefore he should not be allowed to compete. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive will decide on Sulaymanoglu's Olympic eligibility next month.

The sad outcome of this protracted tug-of-war could be that the greatest weightlifter of all time may never win an Olympic medal. In 1984, the world champion and record-holder, was prevented from taking part in Los Angeles through a Soviet-led boycott; now he may become a political victim again.

Lord Young  
Anger  
£800m  
in Row

Sterling  
Highest  
Two years

Botham is  
dismissed

Damp